

Iraq to boycott Islamic conference

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Wednesday it would boycott a conference of Islamic states next week because its Gulf war foe Saudi Arabia was taking part and mounting an American plot against Baghdad. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted a government spokesman as saying Saudi Arabia "and its mercenary allies" were preparing an American conspiracy at the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) summit. "The spokesman said that Iraq's decision was a protest against this conduct," INA said. The spokesman gave no details. It was not known if Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was on the agenda for the summit, due to open in the Senegalese capital, Dakar, on Dec. 9. "It is regrettable that since the beginning of the Zionist Western-American aggression (the Gulf war) on Iraq it has been confirmed by evidence that Saudi Arabia and its mercenaries have made the organisation a tool of the Zionist Western imperialist plan against Iraq," the spokesman said. He accused Saudi Arabia of orchestrating a resolution at an OIC foreign ministers session in Istanbul last August backing United Nations sanctions against Iraq. Iraq is mounting a campaign, of its own, of any international meeting it attends to get the sanctions lifted.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي.

Jordan welcomes multilateral talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Information and Acting Foreign Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif said Wednesday Jordan welcomes participation in the Middle East multilateral talks, which will be held in Moscow Jan. 28-29. In a meeting with Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Yuri Shtadnov, Mr. Sharif lauded the Soviet efforts and contribution to the peace process, co-sponsored by the Soviet Union and the U.S. Jordan, the minister said, pins great hopes on Soviet efforts in this regard. "Moscow is a suitable venue for the gathering of regional and international powers which will try jointly to rid the region of the atmosphere of confrontation and war and replace it with an atmosphere of peace and co-existence," he added. The Soviet ambassador, who visited Mr. Sharif at the Foreign Ministry to inform him of the agreement reached between the U.S. and the Soviet Union to hold the multilateral talks in Moscow Jan. 28-29, said the formal invitations to the talks will be extended to the concerned parties later. Mr. Shtadnov stressed the importance of Jordan's participation in the multilateral talks because of the appreciation and admiration Jordan and its leadership enjoy as a result of their continued endeavours to bring about peace to the region.

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King congratulates Syrian president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a cable to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to congratulate him for his reelection for a fourth seven-year term. King Hussein wished Mr. Assad good health and happiness and the Syrian people further progress and prosperity.

Libyan minister in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — A Libyan cabinet minister put Tripoli's case to Kuwait on Wednesday about U.S. and Western accusations that two Libyan intelligence agents blew up a Pan Am airliner in 1988. Kuwait's national news agency KUNA said Abdul Majid Al Mabrouk Al Qaoud, Libya's minister of agrarian reform and land reclamation, met Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah and handed him a letter from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi. The United States has officially accused Libya of masterminding the bombing (see page 2).

Arabs threaten to sue Italian filmmaker

ROME (R) — The Arab League, stung by an interview in which Franco Zeffirelli called Arabs "a very serious threat for all the civilised world," threatened Wednesday to sue the Italian film director. Mr. Zeffirelli gave the controversial interview after customs at Saudi Arabia's Riyadh airport seized a promotional film he made on Florence. The seizure was made on moral grounds. The Florence-born director told the Turin newspaper La Stampa: "Arabs are a very serious threat for all the civilised world. Their cultural unitary policy is barbarian, primitive, violent. ... sometimes I think we did the wrong thing in intervening in the Gulf war. We should have let them kill each other." The 68-year-old Zeffirelli said in the interview published Monday. Riyadh customs had objected to the film's shots of two masterpieces which represent naked bodies — the statue of David by 16th century sculptor Michelangelo and the birth of Venus painting by 15th century artist Botticelli.

Iraq defuses bombs dropped by allies

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Wednesday it had safely detonated 389 cluster bombs dropped by the U.S.-led allies during the Gulf war in houses, schools and farms in southern parts of the country. "He aim was to kill civilians," Al Thawra newspaper quoted chief of the Civil Defence Department Brigadier Saad Hamza Imam as saying. He said a seven-year-old boy was killed Tuesday when one bomb exploded in a farm in the southern Misan province. Most of the cluster bombs — anti-personnel devices that spray pellets on impact — were found in farms.

France expels Lebanese agent

PARIS (R) — France said Wednesday it was expelling a Lebanese security agent who had obtained illegally a list of 85 dissidents detained for demonstrating against President Elias Hrawi's recent visit to Paris. Interior Minister Philippe Marchand said in parliament the Lebanese ambassador was summoned to the Foreign Ministry on Wednesday and told the agent, who passed to Beirut the list obtained from a French police sergeant, must leave the country. "This morning the case of the Lebanese agent in question was discussed with the Lebanese ambassador who was called once again to the Foreign Ministry. He was told that the agent in question ... must leave our soil immediately. 'I add that the Foreign Ministry has made representations to the Lebanese authorities to ensure that these Lebanese nationals should not be persecuted in their home country, even if some of them ... were already known to the Lebanese authorities.'"

Arabs turn up for peace talks; Israel does not

Peace delegates express disappointment, but will give Israel a second chance

Americans criticise Israelis but Arabs think Washington gave concessions

From George Hawatmeh in Washington

THE SECOND session of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks failed to take place yesterday after Israeli negotiators stayed away from Washington, complicating further U.S.-led efforts for peace in the Middle East. Shortly after the emergence of the Arab delegates from the State Department, both Arab and American spokesmen expressed disappointment and regret over the Israeli absence from the round of talks at the State Department. The leader of the Jordanian delegation, Abdul Salam Al Majali, accused Israel of trying to derail the entire process. "Israel's stalling tactics have lately intensified vis-a-vis the new location and timing of the bilateral talks."

"We are coming again tomorrow to the meeting," he said in

answer to a question. "If they (Israel) show up we will be ready to discuss substantive matters." (see full statement in box)

Israeli officials are in town right now but instead of talking to us about peace, they are at pains trying to explain away their failure to do that by talking to the media. Dr. Majali told reporters at the entrance of the State Department.

He was referring to the presence of Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli deputy minister for information, who was dispatched in Washington two days ago to try to justify Israel's absence from the talks.

Chief Palestinian delegate Haider Abdul Shafi, standing next to Dr. Majali, said the Israelis were using "stalling tactics" which, he said, were "very deplorable." He said the Israeli behaviour was "part of its prac-

tice of oppression (in the occupied territories) and the building of settlements that aim at frustrating the peace process."

Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, following up on Dr. Abdul Shafi's statement, said the Israeli absence, "is an insult to the Arab delegates and the two co-sponsors."

She noted that "the Israelis have not even bothered to send somebody to apologise (for failing to show up)." Dr. Ashrawi, urging the U.S. to respond to Israel "in a firm manner," stressed that Israel "must not be allowed to dictate its will on the other parties to the conflict as well as on the two co-sponsors."

"This is a serious occasion that Israel must not be allowed to waste," Dr. Ashrawi said.

Arab delegates noted with interest the U.S. State Department's "disappointment" with the Israeli failure to show up, but

they criticised the American position as not "strong enough" in facing up to Israel.

While Arab delegates in public comments and American officials in private criticised Israel for not showing up, there was also a feeling among the Arabs that Washington, despite its criticism of Israel, was giving concessions to the Jewish state.

Arab delegates noted that American criticism was evident in State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler's statements, but Washington let Israel off the hook by not allowing cameramen into the designated conference hall to photograph the empty Israeli chairs at the negotiating table.

They also said that the American announcement that Washington would press for the repeal of the Zionism-equals-racism resolution adopted by the

U.N. General Assembly was a reward for Israel instead of applying pressure on the Jewish state.

Ms. Tutwiler said that despite the fact that Israel would be absent from the table, "the facilities for the negotiations will remain open and available to all the parties. We will be open for business every day." But, she said, "it was time to move beyond procedural differences and wrangling and engage directly with one another in direct bilateral negotiations continuing the process launched in Madrid."

The "wrangling" over dates and venue for the talks and Israel's decision not to attend on December 4, is seen as proxy for more substantive disputes whose resolutions will be determined by what role the co-sponsors,

(Continued on page 5)

Following is the statement made by Jordan's chief negotiator Abdul Salam Majali in Washington Wednesday:

"We have come with open hearts and minds to talk peace. Regrettably we found empty chairs. We waited for them and they did not show up. You recall that at the joint invitation of the U.S. president and the president of the Soviet Union, the Middle East peace conference convened in Madrid between Oct. 30 and Nov. 3. The conference launched direct bilateral negotiations between the Arabs and the Israelis on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 along two tracks. — Palestinian-Israeli track and Arab-Israeli track. The first session of such direct bilateral negotiations was held there in Madrid. Israel was adamant to confine that meeting to procedural issues. We were prepared to enter into substantive discussions with our Israeli counterparts. We reached a deadlock on the venue, and as stipulated in the ground rules of the entire process, the sponsors proposed to the parties the time and location of the next round. Washington was chosen for the bilateral negotiations while Moscow is going to host the multilateral negotiations."

"The U.S. government acting as honest and impartial intermediary and after consulting the parties invited us to resume our negotiations on Dec. 4, which is today."

"Jordan, together with the other Arab parties, responded favorably and promptly. We did that in keeping with our genuine desire to reach an honourable just and durable peace. Israel has throughout tried to derail the entire process. Its stalling tactics have lately intensified regarding the Washington location and timing of the bilateral talks. Israeli officials are in town right now. But instead of talking to us about peace they are at pains trying to explain away their failure to do that by talking to the media."

In answer to a question, Dr. Majali added: "We are coming tomorrow again to the meeting. If they show up we will be ready to discuss substantive matters."

Israelis say they will be in Washington Monday

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel, boycotting Washington talks opening Wednesday, said it had decided to send all its delegates in peace negotiations on Dec. 9.

As the Arab side prepared to take up the U.S. invitation and be in place for resumed Middle East talks, a spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said: "Today the Israeli delegations will not show up but as far as the 9th is concerned, the Israeli delegations will attend with the assumption the Arab delegations will be there as well."

Spokesman Ebnud Gol told Reuters: "We will be there on the 9th."

Israel has for decades asserted it would talk peace with its neighbours at any time and place.

Israeli ambassador to the United States, Zalman Shoval, and deputy minister Benjamin Netanyahu are serving as an advance team in Washington.

Mr. Netanyahu, media maestro at Madrid, has been charged with a public relations campaign to minimise the damage caused by Israeli absence.

In an editorial entitled "they're waiting for us," Israel's mass-circulation Yediot Ahronoth newspaper criticised the government and implied "Mr. Netanyahu was on an impossible mission."

"Even Bibi Netanyahu, the nation's public relations man on duty, will be incapable of repairing the media and political damage our government created with its own hands," it said.

"Who will believe our government is still committed to peace?" It compared Israel's behaviour

Freed Anderson handed over to U.S.

DAMASCUS (R) — American journalist Terry Anderson, freed on Wednesday by his Lebanese kidnappers, was handed over to U.S. Ambassador Christopher Ross at the Syrian Foreign Ministry in Damascus, witnesses said. The handover took place privately.

Mr. Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent of the Associated Press news agency, was the last American held by pro-Israeli kidnappers and the longest-held Western hostage.

Mr. Anderson looked "perfectly well," a witness said. He was wearing black trousers and a black pullover and had a mustache.

Snow had blocked Mr. Anderson's drive to freedom Wednesday. The last U.S. hostage released by Lebanese kidnappers hit winter storms on the road to Damascus.

Confusion surrounded his whereabouts several hours after diplomats in Syria and security sources in Beirut said he had been released from 2,454 days' captivity.

Mr. Anderson, held longer than any other hostage, was freed in Beirut at 10 a.m. (0800 GMT). But by late afternoon had still not completed the journey over the mountains to Damascus, normally at three-and-a-half hour trip.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said in New York that Mr. Anderson —

King commutes 6 death sentences on Mohammad's Army members

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday commuted death sentences on six members of the so-called Mohammad's Army to life imprisonment with hard labour.

The six faced execution for car-bomb attacks after the State Security Court sentenced them on Nov. 25.

The Royal Decree did not lift the death penalty on two other members of the group tried in their absence.

The decree said Fuad Daneh, Jawad Faqih, Habis Qaisi, Nabil Abu Hattibeh, Muhammad Dajani and Ziyad Younes sentenced by the State Security Court last month to death for carrying out terrorist activities and plotting to assassinate Jordanian and foreign personalities would instead be imprisoned for life with hard labour.

Eight members of the group were sentenced to death, two of them in absentia. The rest of the



The six convicted 'Mohammad's Army' members whose death sentences were commuted by His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

20-member group were given jail sentences ranging from four and a half years to life.

The verdict, followed several court sessions in which several witnesses for the prosecution testified before the court incriminating the men.

Defence lawyers first tried to disqualify the court itself as being incompetent to handle the case

(Continued on page 5)

Israeli settlers demand new colony

OCCUPIED WEST BANK (R) — Israeli settlers demonstrated on the main road through the occupied West Bank on Wednesday demanding their government turn an army outpost into a new Jewish colony.

Some 200 settlers blocked traffic for several hours while others occupied three mobile homes brought two days ago to the site where a woman settler and an Israeli bus driver were killed in an ambush on the eve of the Madrid peace conference.

Settler leaders have sworn to establish a new colony every time Jews are attacked in the occupied territories, home of nearly two million Palestinians.

Another settler was shot and fatally wounded Sunday while driving near the town of Al Bireh in the occupied West Bank.

The defence ministry set up the army outpost under pressure from settlers after the latest killing. Such outposts are usually converted into civilian settlements.

Al Bireh and nearby Ramallah have been under army cordon since Sunday's attack.

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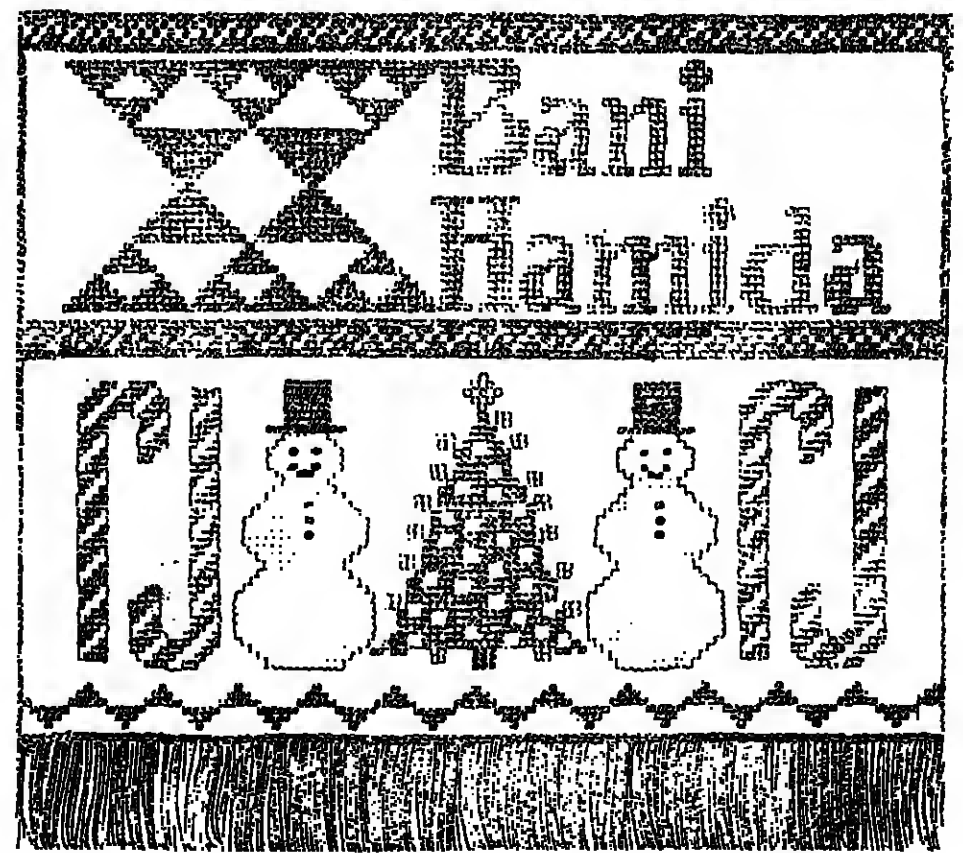
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Minister presented with demands to help economy

AMMAN (J.T.) — In his first meeting with representatives of the Jordanian business community, new Minister of Supply Mohammad Al Saqqaf Wednesday presented with a set of demands designed to stimulate commercial activity in the Kingdom.

Mohammad Asfour, president of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, urged the Ministry of Supply to float the prices of non-basic foodstuffs and allow the prices to be decided through free competition in the Jordanian market. Mr. Asfour also demanded that food aid coming to Jordan be channelled to low-income groups like government employees through the military and civil service consumer corporations.

Furthermore, the consumer corporations should be encouraged to buy their needs of ready-made clothes from local factories and not import them from other countries. These should be sold at reduced prices only to government employees, he said.

Mr. Asfour demanded that upgraded measures and methods be adopted in collecting samples of products for laboratory tests and in the process of selling basic food supplies like sugar and rice to the local merchants to allow them a reasonable profit margin.

For his part, Mr. Saqqaf urged the chambers to work out a collective memorandum to be reviewed at a general meeting between representatives of the ministries of supply and of industry and trade on local businesses and merchants.

He said the memorandum should deal with all matters related to trade and obstacles facing the businesses in their operations.

Mr. Saqqaf stressed the government's keenness on safeguarding the interests of the merchants and the consumers and welcomed ideas that would serve that objective.



Her Majesty Queen Noor at a gathering in London to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the founding of the American University of Beirut

Queen Noor praises role of American University of Beirut

AMMAN (J.T.) — At a ceremony marking the 125th year of the founding of the American University of Beirut (AUB), Her Majesty Queen Noor praised the school for its contributions in educating future leaders of the Arab World and said the school should continue its important role in Arab academic life.

Speaking Saturday before an audience of 350 AUB Alumni and supporters, the Queen said the university "has provided the best education available for several generations of Arab men and women."

It has been "an important meeting ground for interaction amongst all Arabs — an open, tolerant environment where ideas and dreams could be shared among students from many different social, political, religious and ethnic backgrounds," she said.

The Queen was the guest of honour at the first AUB Alumni European Convention Banquet, which was held in London. The

convention addressed AUB's future and its role in the 21st Century.

"Perhaps more than any other institution in the region, the university has been ... a model of interaction between the Arab and Western worlds," she said. The university has served as a "window through which they have been able to discover the best in each other, to learn from one another and to affirm their mutual aspirations and dreams."

Referring to the recent bombing of College Hall, the Queen said: "The clock tower of College Hall may be temporarily missing from the skyline of Beirut, but the horizons of the Arab World remain illuminated by everything that AUB has offered to the Arab people and to the world in the last 125 years."

Queen Noor also spoke of the democratic transformation taking place in the Arab World and described the recent peaceful and

orderly political development in Jordan towards pluralistic democracy.

"The force that drives the new momentum for change in the Arab World is grounded firmly on the burgeoning spirit of democracy, pluralism and nation-building," she said.

"You recognise that spirit," the Queen added, "because you have carried it within you since your days at AUB."

Other speakers included Chairman of the AUB Alumni Association in the United Kingdom Hisham El Solh, chairman of the board of Trustees of AUB and President Emeritus of Princeton University, Dr. Robert E. Goheen and AUB Deputy President, Dr. Ibrahim Salti.

One dead, about 100 rescued as torrential rains continue

By Elia Nasrallah

Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — One person had died and at least 100 have been rescued by Civil Defense Department (CDD) teams in the last six days as torrential rains continued through Wednesday, CDD officials reported.

Most of the rescue operations were mounted to help people trapped either in their cars or homes by the rains, which have caused widespread damage throughout the country, officials said.

There have been about 300 incidents reported to authorities in which houses or businesses were flooded, officials said.

While causing widespread damage, many officials welcomed the rains, saying it would be beneficial to the environment and farmers. At the same time, the rains have depleted the country's water supply, which had been running low as a result of the high demand in the summer.

The King Talal Dam, the largest in the country, is nearly one third full now thanks to the rains of the past six days, according to Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Secretary General Dr. Abdul Aziz Wishah.

The King Talal Dam, which has a total capacity of 85 million cubic metres, collected 26 million cubic metres by Wednesday morning and was expected to rise above the 30 million cubic metre level by Wednesday evening, up from nine million cubic metres at the beginning of the season, said Dr. Wishah in a statement to the Jordan Times.

"We have readings of the total amounts of water in the various dams in the morning of each day and the latest readings are very encouraging, especially as we are still at the outset of the rainy season," Dr. Wishah said.

The director of the Department of Meteorology, Dr. Ali



Residents in Amman try to minimise the damage caused by six days of torrential rains (Photo by Yusef Al 'Allan)

All the other dams in the country, with the exception of the Wadi Al Arab Dam which has a capacity of 17 million cubic metres, are now almost full, he added. Dr. Wishah said, for example, that the Wadi Shueib Dam is now full with two and one quarter million cubic metres of rain water, up from zero before the rains.

The rains have lasted for six days, causing soil to be saturated, and a great deal of run-off water to be generated in the wadis.

Dr. Wishah said the huge amount of run-off water has helped to wash the salt away from the soil surface. At the same time, the water running in streams to the Jordan Valley has irrigated all the farmlands, saving the water behind the dams.

The director of the Department of Meteorology, Dr. Ali

Abanda, said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the effect of the current rainstorm will gradually recede Thursday when a rise in temperatures is expected. But, he said, Jordan will be affected on Sunday by another low depression which is expected to bring in more rain.

Dr. Abanda said that the cold fronts accompanying the depression which was centred over the island of Cyprus brought in high winds and heavy rain in most regions of Jordan. He estimated the amount of rain falling in the first four days as accounting for 10 per cent of the total annual rain-fall in Jordan.

Dr. Abanda said that Salt received the largest amount of rain, nearly 234 millimetres in the first five days.

The rainstorms have caused at least one death. They have

also caused damage to roads due to landslides and temporary closure of roads in various regions of the Kingdom.

A Civil Defence Department (CDD) Spokesman said that Lina Shaker Amr, a 24-year-old woman, found to have drowned in a torrent at the Yadoudeh District, 10 kilometres south of Amman. The woman had been reported missing 24 hours earlier and the body was discovered five kilometres away from the spot where she was reported to have been seen last.

Several CDD teams were formed to look for the missing woman and for two young boys who were missing but were later found. According to eyewitnesses, the woman was in the company of her fiancé, who was pulled out from the stream by people and civil defence men.

Sit-in held in protest of unfair testing requirements for new graduates

By Odeh Odeh

Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — Around 50 specialists held a two-hour sit-in at the headquarters of the Jordan Medical Board in Amman Wednesday to back a host of demands and present a memorandum outlining the grievances of 1,500 specialists they claimed to be representing.

In their note, the specialists said that the board was mistreating the new graduating specialists and blocking their attempts to be registered as specialists with authority to practice in the country.

"The board sets very difficult examinations for the new specialists with the result that no more than 5 per cent of the candidates pass such examinations," the note said.

It said that most members of

the board and those of scientific committees hold degrees far less in standard than those held by the candidates. But still, the way for new graduates to be fully recognised as specialists in Jordan is blocked, the statement said.

The board law which was issued in 1982 to raise the medical standard in Jordan and to issue diplomas to Jordanians being trained for their specialisation was not meant to evaluate degrees issued by boards abroad, the protest note added.

It accused the board members of abusing the law and the regulations on awarding diplomas or licences to specialists and demanded that such excesses end.

Asked to comment on the situation, Health Minister Aref Bataineh denied that a sit-in was held and said that only a

protest memorandum was submitted to the board chairman. Dr. Bataineh noted, however, that the ministry was taking measures to find a permanent solution to this chronic problem. But, he said, the ministry refuses to succumb to pressure. Jordan Medical Association President Ishaq Maraga admitted that there was a sit-in, but said that he would have supported the presentation of a memorandum without the sit-in.

The sit-in was held without any consultation with the association, which is supposed to know about doctors' actions in advance so it can later back their demands, he said.

The board's secretary general, Hani Oweis, said that the note will be conveyed to the health minister in his capacity as chairman of the Jordan Medical Board.



Tayseer Abdel Jaber ESCWA briefs member states on activities

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Advisory Committee of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) convened Wednesday at the commission's headquarters attended by ambassadors and representatives of member states.

Dr. Tayseer Abdel Jaber under-secretary-general and ESCWA executive secretary, opened the meeting with a presentation of the commission's work and different activities in the economic, social and technical fields.

During the meeting, the delegates exchanged views with the executive secretary, who answered the different questions and inquiries posed about the commission's functions.

The objective of such meeting is to conduct consultations on issues that would assist the commission in providing wider and better services in the fields of its competence.

The member states of ESCWA are: Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Syria, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Lebanon, Yemen, Egypt, Palestine and Saudi Arabia.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Thailand

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a cable to King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand to congratulate him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian government and people on Thailand's national day. King Hussein wished the Thai monarch continued good health and happiness and the Thai people further progress and prosperity.

Bridge to be closed

AMMAN (Petra) — The King Mohammad Bridge over the River Jordan will be closed for traffic from Sunday until further notice, Public Security Department (PSD) sources said Wednesday. The sources said those willing to travel to the West Bank can use the King Hussein Bridge, which is usually open for passengers from 8 a.m. till 1 p.m. According to the sources, the movement of trucks across the two bridges will remain unchanged.

Minister receives ILO official

AMMAN (Petra) — Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti received Wednesday Nicolae Sarraf, the regional advisor of the director general of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Mr. Kabariti and Mr. Sarraf reviewed scopes of cooperation between Jordan and the ILO in labour-related fields and ways of promoting and bolstering ties. Mr. Sarraf was also received by the secretary general of the Jordanian Labour Unions Federation, Abdul Halim Khadda. The meeting, which was attended by a number of labour unions presidents, discussed the labour unions' achievements in Jordan and the Jordanian federation's relations with the ILO. Mr. Khaddam and Mr. Sarraf agreed to draw a plan for holding next year's cultural activities, which will include seminars and lectures on labour-related issues.

German, Jordanian officials sign assistance programme

AMMAN (J.T.) — A five-member German economic team led by Winfried Fuchs Wednesday signed minutes of deliberations and discussions with the Ministry of Planning providing 80 million Deutschmarks (DM) in technical and capital assistance to Jordan.

The minutes provide for 50 million DM in technical assistance to benefit the agriculture, water and health sectors and 30 million DM to benefit capital projects in agriculture and water fields.

Germany has provided Jordan

with 400 million DM since the beginning of the Gulf crisis in August last year in order to help the country offset the consequences of the Gulf crisis.

The German team that has been discussing aid to Jordan for the upcoming two years will go to Yemen at the end of their visit Thursday.

The minutes were signed by Dr. Safwan Touqan, the ministry's secretary general, and Mr. Fuchs, who is head of the Middle East and North Africa Desk at the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation.



Public Security Department Director Fadel Ali meets with senior German government officials Wednesday (Petra photo)

German representatives discuss cooperation in criminal fields

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two senior German officials held talks with Jordanian officials on promoting Jordanian-German cooperation in criminal investigation fields. The two, Hans-Ludwig Zachart, president of the Federal Criminal Investigation Bureau, and Hagen Fabarschensky, director of Anti-Narcotics Department, met first with Interior Minister Jawdat Al Shoul, with whom they discussed coordination between the two countries' security services to safeguard the public interest. The minister said that Jordan and Germany were cooperating in matters of combating crime and drug trafficking and Jordan was keen on promoting such cooperation further on the basis of mutual interest. The two German visitors were also received by Public Security Department (PSD) Director Fadel Ali and discussed bilateral relations and cooperation in police-related affairs, particularly in combating narcotic trafficking and international efforts to stem the danger

of drug addiction. The two visitors toured the various PSD departments and were briefed on their services and programmes.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of scientific and technical books at the University of Jordan.
- ★ Art exhibition by Dia Azawi at Muna Saudi Studio — tel. 829700.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by a group of Iraqi artists at Alia Art Gallery (opening ceremony at 5:30 p.m.)

BAZAAR

- ★ The American Women of Amman (AWA) Christmas Charity Bazaar at the Marriott Hotel (open Friday from 11 a.m. till 3 p.m.)

FILM

- ★ Feature film entitled "Inherit the Wind" at the American Centre — 7 p.m.



Luxury line of sunglasses to be introduced

AMMAN — Petra Est. For Optical Products, the sole agents for Carrera International Products in Jordan, held a party last Thursday at the Jerusalem International Hotel on the occasion of launching of Carrera, Hugo Boss, Porsche design frames and sunglasses in the Jordanian markets.

George Abdu, Petra manager, pointed out the qualities of Carrera sunglasses as being lightweight, but solid, fashionable and

sporty. Mr. Abdu stressed Petra's commitment to excellent service to its clients.

The Austrian Commercial attaché in Jordan attended the convention and complemented Petra and Carrera on these new products. Geretschlager showed a video film and slides and presented the new 1992 collections of Carrera, Porsche Design and Hugo Boss frames and sunglasses.

Everybody present admired the new collections, which have both fashion and innovation. Carrera, Porsche Design and Hugo Boss frames and sunglasses will be shortly available at leading opticians and department stores.

Jordan Times

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Jordan Times advertising department

Sabotaging the peace process

WHAT DOES Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir want? Does he, as many Arabs maintain, want to sabotage the peace process? Or is he, in his quest to twist U.S. President George Bush's arm, trying to win back, by force, the U.S. administration?

He seems to be doing both. He seems to want to determine the shape of peace in the region on his own perception while at the same time keeping the "special relationship" between Israel and the U.S. The man and his clique in Tel Aviv seem to be on of touch with the changing times. The Arabs, Jordanians, Palestinians, Syrians and Lebanese, all of whom Shamir and the U.S. administration had for long termed anti-peace, showed up en masse Wednesday at the scheduled location and date "to talk peace," as the head of the Jordanian delegation, Dr. Abdul Salam Majali, has said. It is true that peace cannot be achieved without the Israelis, if that is the point they are making. But it is even more important, especially for the Israelis, to understand that their own peace, cannot be achieved without the Arabs. American money and arms will not for long be used at liberty to ensure Israeli security. These facts are by now well-known to every sane human being, Arab, Israeli or American.

Israel cannot continue to set the rules for the game of peace. It took U.S. Secretary of State James Baker months, many trips to the region and long hours of talks to convince the Arabs to bitterly accept Israeli terms of reference for the peace talks. The U.S. and most certainly the Arabs will not allow Israel to derail the talks from their intended target, a just and comprehensive peace, nor will they allow Israel to conduct them on its own terms. Shamir's continued attempts to limit the role of the U.S. are futile. Israel knows, the U.S. knows it and the Arab know it: Peace in the Middle East at this juncture of history cannot and will not be achieved without the active involvement of the U.S. The balance of power in the Middle East, in favour of Israel, will not allow a just peace unless the U.S., the honest broker, decided it is just. The hatred and the decades-old animosity will not disappear with the signing of peace accords; that requires a long-time involvement of the U.S. in all aspects of the peace process.

Many Arabs would be very pleased to see U.S.-Israeli relations damaged. They consider those special relations as responsible for Israeli intransigence. We see strains in these relations, and we suspect that Shamir and his Likud bloc are pushing into that direction in their effort to blackmail the administration and delay any substantive talks until it brings the administration to heels and wins the loan guarantees. It also wants to push the talks well into 1992 when the American people becomes busy in presidential elections in the hope the U.S. enthusiasm for the talks would wane. It is unfortunate that this last chance would be wasted by the intransigence of the Israeli leadership and its narrow-mindedness.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily said Wednesday that the Israelis who are refusing to attend talks in Washington are the same people who have been visiting the American capital for years begging money and rallying support for their crimes and occupation of Arab land. By declaring that no power on earth can force Israel to go to Washington on Dec. 4, Yitzhak Shamir is trying to show the world that Israel can do without the United States in pursuing occupation and aggression, the paper said. It said that the United States had crushed Iraq and is depriving its people of the means of existence for the sake of Israel which is now trying to rebel and to hold on to the occupied land with guarantees from the U.S. and Europe and with continued insults to the Arab Nation. The absence of Israel from the peace parley in Washington could be offset by the presence of the American administration because the Americans deal with the Gulf crisis in Iraq's absence and forced Baghdad to pull out its troops from Kuwait, the paper pointed out. The U.S. can force Israel to pull out from the Arab lands without starving the Israelis or imposing sanctions on them but through imposing its will by withholding loans and cutting off aid, said the paper. Israel's absence from the peace negotiations does not absolve the U.S. administration from its responsibility to bring about a settlement, the paper added. The paper said that President George Bush can make history and save his country further embarrassment by being tough and by ordering Israel to succumb to the requirements of peace and comply with the international legitimacy.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily discussed the question of releasing American and European hostages and noted that only through a deal over the fate of human beings can the U.S. and Europe be forced to unfreeze assets in their banks. Tareq Masarweh cited the unfreezing by the U.S. of \$287 million to Iran following the release of American hostages in Beirut and the unfreezing of \$120 million by Britain of Iraqi assets following the release of a British businessman accused of bribing officials in Baghdad.

The screws tighten in Palestine

By Chris Mannings

MUSTAFA AL Jamal returned to his Gaza home at eight o'clock in the evening after a long day's work on a Tel Aviv construction site. He has to get up at four the following morning in order to negotiate passage out of Gaza through checkpoints and searches at the Erez checkpoint. He must have his ID card, his magnetic card and now since the Gulf war a special permit to allow him to work in Israel. Talk of peace has not made a great impression on him. "My grandfather gave this problem to my father and my father gave it to me. At the beginning of the intifada I thought there might be a solution but now I think maybe I will just have to pass on the problem to my son."

Palestinian disillusionment

Mustafa's disillusionment is shared by many. Three years of sacrifice in the intifada did not bring tangible gains so the philosophy of liberation from outside was reviewed, this time in the shape of Saddam Hussein. Fatah had set in long before the Gulf war but now little interest is expressed even in the news. In the early days of the intifada radios blared out news in every bus, on every street corner; now even the prospect of a Middle East peace conference does not provoke much interest.

The practical effects of the

Gulf war are manifold: remittances from relatives working in the Gulf states have all but stopped, cutting off between 20 and 30 per cent of GNP. Forty-three consecutive days of curfew during the period of the war brought agricultural and industrial production in the occupied territories to a halt. Access to the Israeli labour market has been dramatically curtailed since the war. Estimates suggest only 30,000 workers make the daily journey from Gaza to work in Israel now, compared with 50,000 before the war, which figure was already a sharp fall from before the intifada. Furthermore, the evacuation of Palestinians from Kuwait has forced many to return to the occupied territories. Al Quds, the Jerusalem daily, reported that on one day alone in August, 2,500 Palestinians crossed the bridge from Jordan into the West Bank to remain permanently there.

The strain on an economy which was already unable to provide for its population has reached breaking point. Those who do return often do so under humiliating circumstances. In Gaza stories abound of peoples' struggle to return. There are the tens of thousands stranded on the Iraq-Kuwait border without travel documents. Those who make it to Egypt are forced to wait in Cairo until there are sufficient numbers to fill a bus. They are not provided with medical or other welfare facilities.

Put all this in the context of massive Soviet Jewish immigration, accelerated land confiscation and frenzied construction of new settlements and the mood of desperation is easy to apprehend.

Attitudes to the intifada are complex and confusing. In private conversation it is not uncommon to hear it pronounced as an end. Heretical opinions about accepting any kind of peace settlement are the result of desperation not political conviction. "We talk about Jerusalem but if they offered us Ramallah tomorrow we should accept it," is the result of frustration with concrete circumstances and the political leadership inside and outside, not a signal of capitulation. The intifada is still very much alive, whatever isolated individuals may contend, but there is a widespread feeling that it has somehow slipped beyond the people's control.

Attitudes in the occupied territories to American endeavours to bring together the enemy parties are often described as sceptical. This misses the point. Such have been the reverses of recent months, so omnipotent is the U.S. traditional benefactor of Israel and powerlessness to influence events is so widely felt that the significance of the peace conference is remote. In short no one has asked people what they want and how they feel and thus it is none of their business. It will go ahead regardless of what they feel about it.

Settlements transform the skyline

The 45-minute drive from the King Hussein Bridge over the River Jordan to Jerusalem has changed dramatically within the past two years. Israeli settlement of East Jerusalem has transformed the skyline and created tight rows of fortress housing. Arab Jerusalem is fading in a fury of Israeli construction. The Israelis have not been lax and the lorry loads of sewage pipes at the Erez checkpoint into Gaza bear witness to frenetic building throughout the occupied territories. Land is being pulled from under the feet of Palestinian farmers.

Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, head of the Palestinian Red Crescent and the head of the Palestinian negotiating team at the peace conference, said he was surprised at American ignorance of land confiscation. Secretary of State James Baker appeared taken aback when Palestinian representatives related the extent of Israeli land confiscation and settlement. Dr. Abdul Shafi expressed Palestinian fears in the following exchange with Mr. Baker.

"I asked the secretary of state if he thought continued settlement of the occupied territories was compatible with peace. 'No,' he replied. I then asked if America was prepared to put pressure on Israel to freeze its settlement policy. Again he replied 'no'."

The gathering furor over loan guarantees and President George Bush's threat to use his veto in Congress to delay granting them indicates a belated recognition of the centrality of Israeli settlement policy to the peace process. Dr. Abdul Shafi put this issue right at the heart of the process. "Without a freeze on settlement, questions such as East Jerusalem and who represents the Palestinians are irrelevant."

Rejecting Israel's agenda

The opinion throughout the occupied territories is that talk of establishing the final status of the territories after a period of years, while through an accelerated programme of land confiscation and settlement the Israelis are practically engaged in doing just that, is an arrogant nonsense and further evidence of the willingness of the international community to bend over backwards to accommodate Israeli policy. In the light of unrestrained repression vigorous settlement, Palestinians are not inclined to take very seriously any talk of peace conferences. They have become aspersed with such international acquiescence to Israel's agenda setting.

Despite the return of those Palestinians displaced by the Gulf war to the occupied territories, there is a general fear among Palestinians in Syria, Jordan and the occupied territories about international plans for them. In

Damascus, a senior figure in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine talked with conviction of the fear among Palestinians that America had secured Syrian agreement to remove the Palestinian population of the refugee camps in Lebanon and relocate it in Jordan. The influx into Jordan of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from the Gulf states compound the fear that Jordan is becoming a centre for the ingathering of the Palestinians, intentionally or otherwise. Meanwhile their land in the West Bank and GAZA Strip continues to disappear from under their feet and is repopulated with Soviet immigrants, while America talks about peace.

Population transfer from the occupied territories to Jordan has long been a fear. The Israeli cabinet includes a member whose party's central policy is just that. When the process of land confiscation and settlement has continued unabated for several more years, Israel may be left with up to two million dispossessed Palestinians with nowhere to go. It is small wonder that war and mass expulsions are returning to the front of people's minds in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Chris Mannings is a British schoolteacher who worked in the occupied territories. He has recently returned from a visit to Syria, Jordan and Palestine. The above article is reprinted from Middle East International.

Succeed or fail, EC will make history at Maastricht

By Andres Wolberg-Stok Reuter

BRUSSELS — Arguably the most ambitious project in Europe's evolution reaches a crossroads next week in the old Dutch city of Maastricht.

Even if it succeeds, the European Community summit on political and monetary union will not produce an instant united states of Europe. Nor will failure spell the EC's immediate collapse.

But the long-term stakes are high.

If the 12 heads of state and government cannot bridge huge differences, the EC will suffer a severe blow. Britain, perhaps the most sovereignty-conscious of the 12 states, might condemn itself to future isolation.

But if the summit does strike a deal, it could set the 34-year-old community on course to become one day the European union, with a single currency run by an EC central bank, one voice in foreign affairs and one army. Unlike the sprawling empires Napoleon and Hitler set out to build, this union would rest on the willingness of democratic nations to give up sovereignty in a broad range of fields for the sake of common strength.

It would embrace at least nine different languages and many cultures. It would bring together not pioneers in an unknown continent, but peoples long prone to wage murderous wars against each other.

If the summit next Monday and Tuesday can move towards the EC vision, or at least clearly chart the way forward, politicians predict EC unity and wealth will beckon a dozen or more other European states to join in.

It would then wield enormous economic and political power, vying with the United States and Japan for supremacy.

If the summit fails, many predict a gradual dilution of the EC, with the lure of a barrier free single market after 1992 no longer enough to ensure unity.

"If we don't go forward, we will slide back," says Belgium's ambassador to the EC, Philippe de Schoutheete.

In this worst-case scenario, the community would slowly wilt. German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who champions a united states of Europe, said last month that failure at Maastricht would set the EC back by a generation.

In the short term, East European reformers such as Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia — not to mention the Soviet republics — could see their hopes for EC membership this century quashed.

Even much wealthier and more politically mature applicants such as Austria and Sweden would find the EC's doors closed until internal reconstructions in Brussels subsided.

A community riven by rancour would find it hard to act as an anchor for the continent or dampen ethnic strife to the east.



European Community Now

It would also be less likely to work hard at good trade relations with the United States or Japan, and protectionist instincts could resurface — perhaps leading to a trade war.

And what of Germany, by far the EC's biggest and wealthiest state? Today it seems eager to bury forever the memories of two world wars fomented by nationalism and bleed into a bigger bloc where nationality matters less.

Bonn itself concedes a risk that it might start throwing its huge

weight around, or turn its attention to the east where it would find plenty of new areas of political and business opportunity.

With so much at stake, why is there such disagreement among EC states after a full year of intensive treaty negotiations launched by the same leaders at a summit in Rome last December?

How can 12 states whose economies are already being woven together remain so deeply split over the future course?

The EC states have almost

completed the mammoth task they set themselves in 1987 of writing hundreds of new laws to scrap all internal barriers to the movement of people, goods, services and capital by the end of 1992.

Their currencies are already locked into narrow bands and cannot fluctuate too much against each other without central banks stepping in to restore order.

For so-called "federalists" like Mr. Helmut Kohl or Jacques Delors, president of the executive European Commission, the logical step forward is to plan to scrap national currencies in favour of the European Currency Unit (ECU) — a single currency valid throughout the bloc, predicted to bring vast savings to business.

And if an independent central bank is to manage the ECU, thus depriving the governments of some of their most fundamental policy-making tools, the sensible next step is to merge national sovereignties in other fields, the federalists say.

This is where Britain, and particularly its Conservative government, disagrees.

With occasional backing from Denmark and Portugal, London argues that the best way forward is for the '12 government to cooperate ever more closely, not for the community to be fed more and more power until it becomes an overbearing supra-national monster dictating to its helpless member states.

This fundamental difference of

opinion has coloured the year-long arguments on almost every subject discussed in the inter-governmental conferences on political union and Economic and Monetary Union (EMU).

Britain is now certain to win an exceptional right to stay out of EMU if it is still reluctant to join when EC leaders take the final decision in 1997.

It is seen by many as baving methodically whittled down the aspirations of its partners, clipping and trimming every proposal to the point where the commission and the European Parliament can expect few new powers in the short term.

London has also succeeded in keeping plans for a more formal common 'foreign' and security policy largely inter-governmental, and in extracting pledges from France and other supporters of an EC defence identity that any future European army will not undermine NATO.

But Britain does not appear to discount a last-minute counter-attack by federalists at Maastricht.

The compromise might lie in carefully worded pledges in the new treaty, committing EC states to review their links in a few years' time and setting specific targets for that exercise.

"We want a treaty that makes very clear that economic and currency union and political union is irreversible — underline this word again, it is very important," says Mr. Helmut Kohl.

Djerejian: U.S. has no blueprint for Mideast talks

By Norma Holmes

WASHINGTON — The United States looks forward to direct talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours but "has no blueprint" for those talks, a senior U.S. administration official said a few days before the talks were scheduled to begin here.

Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Edward Djerejian said in a United States Information Agency (USIA) interview, Nov. 29, it is extraordinarily important that the parties reengage on both the substantive and procedural issues that have been discussed in Madrid.

In the wide-ranging interview Mr. Djerejian also discussed other important regional issues, including arms control, Iraq, Lebanese independence, the bombing of Pan Am 103, nuclear arms in South Asia and the movement toward peace in Afghanistan.

"In the first instance, it is very important for the parties to engage directly and try to resolve these issues themselves," Mr. Djerejian said, noting "the Israelis have agreed to the Washington venue for the next bilateral talks."

"Something that has been sought for 43 years was accomplished in Madrid," Mr. Djerejian pointed out. "The Arab Israeli peace process has been established at a higher level, from which the parties are now continuing. Therefore, the bilateral talks in Washington this week are the next step in continuing the

momentum in what has been achieved at Madrid."

Mr. Djerejian said that while the role of the United States involves "no specific American plan, we and the Soviets, as a co-sponsor, are available to the negotiating parties whenever they so wish — whenever the parties themselves agree, we are available to play a role."

"We would certainly prefer that the parties themselves resolve these procedural issues between themselves," he noted. "If they cannot, then we are prepared, with the Soviets, to provide proposals of our own to break deadlocks or stalemates." On the question of venue, he said, "we waited for three weeks... They were unable to agree, and we made a proposal for the talks to resume in Washington."

"We very much hope that the parties will concentrate more and more on substance and pull away from some of the procedural problems that have been addressed in recent weeks. It is very important to start focusing the bilateral talks on issues of substance which are really at the heart of the Arab-Israeli conflict."

Within the general framework of the peace process, he said, "the U.S. would like to see discussions between the Israelis and the Palestinians on interim self-government arrangements concluded by the first year of the negotiations, and final status negotiations occur beginning the third year."

"I want to underline, there is

no American blueprint... We don't have a time frame for this. We realise we're in it for the long haul — even our proposal is a multi-year one — but where we can make progress quickly, we're going to try to go for it," Mr. Djerejian added.

Turning to questions on U.S. policy concerning the status of the Golan Heights, a major bilateral issue, Mr. Djerejian said the United States "does not recognise the unilateral extension of Israeli administrative rules and law to the Golan," he said resolution of the Golan Heights question is a major subject of bilateral negotiations between Israel and Syria "that must be resolved at the negotiating table."

Asked if Lebanon will have an independent voice in the bilateral talks in light of a recent spate of bilateral agreements with Syria, Mr. Djerejian pointed out that Lebanon "announced its participation in the next round of bilateral talks in Washington days before Syria did."

He said U.S. policy, which supports implementation of the Taif Accords, is based in restoring Lebanon's independence and sovereignty and territorial integrity. With the implementation of the Taif agreement, to which Syria is a signatory, "Lebanon is on that path of reasserting its own independence," Mr. Djerejian, who had served as U.S. ambassador to Syria, stressed.

Mr. Djerejian said the Taif agreement is the mechanism established by states of the region to support Lebanon's reemergence

as an independent country, free of all foreign forces, and with all militia dismantled, with a Lebanese state that can reestablish control over its own territory. "We have consistently told the Syrians that we expect Taif to be followed in letter and spirit, and that resolve is very important," he said.

Questioned on U.S. policy toward Syria in light of allegations that it was involved in the bombing of Pan Am 103, Mr. Djerejian said the United States participated in "a very objective and intense investigation, both criminal, forensic and intelligence," to determine the perpetrators of the atrocity.

"The evidence led clearly to Libya," he said. "It led to the two individuals who have been indicted and equally troubling — to involvement by Libyan officialdom in this act." Mr. Djerejian pointed out, stressing that "the evidence that has been provided, which is conclusive, leads to Libya's door."

Mr. Djerejian said that while some may choose to ignore facts and question U.S. Political motivation, the United States has never traded off one issue in order to obtain satisfaction on another. "We conduct our relations with Syria on the basis of U.S. national interests," which, he said, include:

— The implementation of the Taif Accords, which now allow Lebanon for the first time after 16 years of blood war to restore its institutions and its own independence.

— Syria's political and military cooperation in the Gulf war against Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

— The agreement of Syria's President Hafez Al Assad to participate in the peace conference in Madrid, which allowed the peace process to move forward in terms of Arab-Israeli negotiations.

Mr. Djerejian said "one of the most pressing issues of our day" is the problem of weapons proliferation throughout the region "at the very same time these reductions and controls are being instituted in East-West relations."

One such pressing issue, he said, is the question of a nuclear free zone in South Asia. "We are now in the process of consulting very closely with our friends in both India and Pakistan on how we can approach this critical issue," Mr. Djerejian said, adding that Under Secretary of State Reginald Bartholomew has just returned from a trip to South Asia, where he had "very good talks" in both New Delhi and Islamabad. "Our plans now are to build on those and see if we can gain some momentum toward a non-proliferation regime in South Asia to avoid the risks of a nuclear confrontation there."

He said another, "very positive" related development concerns in Afghanistan, and the agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union on the cutoff of arms supplies to all sides of the Afghan conflict as of Jan. 1, 1992. A second very important development, he said, has come through in the efforts of

the U.N. secretary-general's representative, Benon Sevan, in providing the political framework for a transition to a broad-based transitional government in Afghanistan. "It is very important to support this U.N. effort in all of its aspects," Mr. Djerejian stressed, adding, "we think there is room for progress toward a political solution in Afghanistan after these years of crisis and bloodshed."

In other efforts towards arms reduction in the region, Mr. Djerejian said the United States is now also engaged in consultations with the Chinese government on issues of arms transfer reduction in the region. "It is very important to maintain Iraq's territorial integrity for stability in the region as a whole."

Mr. Djerejian said that President Bush's proposal for an arms control regime in the Middle East seeks to prevent the emergence of such regimes in the future, through controls on the transfer of destabilising conventional weapons to the region as well as weapons of mass destruction, including surface to surface missiles.

"What is important is that the parties (of the region) begin to focus on these issues," Mr. Djerejian said. One vehicle, he said, "may very well be the multilateral talks that we're conducting in terms of the peace process, in which issues of security and arms control, and human resource will be addressed." USA.

Husseini's paintings — inspirations from the homeland

By Ica Wahabeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The first thing you set eyes on when you step in is a monumental-size canvass the impact of which is so strong on the senses that you find yourself unable to avoid looking at it.

Eyes darting around to take in the explosion of colour, I was unprepared for the petite woman who came to meet me with an extended hand.

Smiling and composed, she congenially volunteered information about her work and life.

Born in Jerusalem, Jumana Al Hussein's life seems to be that of a rich socialite. But the expressive, at times sad, eyes tell of another story. Forced to leave her birthplace by brutal occupation, and then living successively in different adopted countries, she carried in her heart the homeland "as I remembered it. As I wanted it to be."

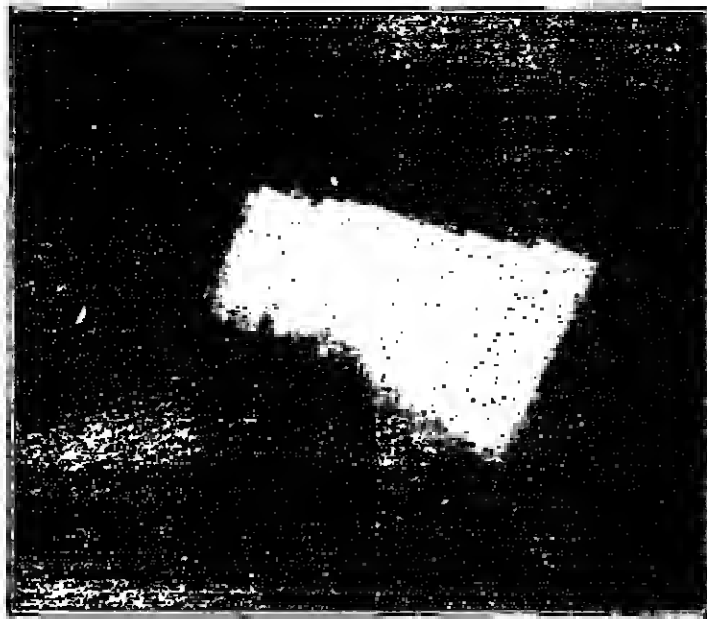
The early style, that of the 60s, was characterised by representations of squares. "My first solo exhibition, in Lon-

don, had paintings of squares in which I would draw things reminding Palestine. My homeland is always in my heart. The things I would draw within the squares were of past, happy memories. Never the present. It is not pleasant."

Gradually, Ms. Hussein's style changed from squares with fragmented bits inside to whole images. A hard worker, putting in from 12 to 15 hours of work daily, she gets transposed into a world of her own. "I would draw Jerusalem. My Jerusalem, the way I remembered it, that was mine. And I would imagine, while working, that I was living there."

At that time, of the early 70s, the artist had started representing Arab/Palestinian traditions: Weddings, circumcision, bathing of the bride.

The colours are vivid, the images are stylised. One particular painting, The Galilee Wedding, is representative of the period. On the background, there is the church where Jesus Christ performed his first miracle. To



One of the abstract paintings — mixed media on canvass — by the artist currently on display at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.

the left, in the foreground, two stylised figures are those of Jesus and Virgin Mary. The central piece is taken by the married couple and people attending the ceremony. The images are suggestive, symbolic; the colours convey

a happy feeling with purple and red abundant.

Ms. Hussein says she always painted on canvass. But in 1975, with the war in Lebanon, where she was living at the time, she "discovered" the paper. "It was easier to

carry and cheaper to buy." The colour technique, "my own," consists of the use of China ink and watercolours. "On paper, I would use watercolours. Then I would cover it with an isolating layer and use oil over." The watercolour creates nuances, while the oil would give relief to the whole.

As late as 1988, Ms. Jumana started embroidery (Palestinian cross stitch) and abstract painting. An exhibition in the U.S. and Canada had on show torn and stabbed at canvasses. "I would paint something and then I would systematically destroy it. I guess I would express my feelings of frustration at the state of affairs in my home country. Then, I started hearing about the intifada, about the children of the stones. I felt I was born again."

These new developments influenced Ms. Hussein's style. "I started drawing (things that reminded) the beginning of life: The seed, the egg."

They are small paintings, as contrasted with the more recent ones, in abstract form.

"I never thought I'd use this style, I think it must have suited my desire to express my rebirth."

The 10 or 11 frames invariably have a dark (black) background and bright, abstract splashes of colour.

With the progressing of events at home, Ms. Hussein's nationalistic feelings were evolving too. "I started feeling the area where I came from. I was getting a superior perception of the culture I belonged to. I felt reborn."

Although the colour was predominantly black, "those were my happiest moments. I was finding myself again."

The technique she uses could be described as archaeology in reverse. "I would have liked to become an archaeologist, instead of doing political studies. But we, Palestinians, are inevitably, naturally drawn into politics, so I followed the trend."

The latest paintings are drawn layer upon layer of oil, crayon, watercolour. The works are all mixed media with abstracts. The artist works simultaneously on 24



Jumana Al Hussein

to 26 canvasses for, sometimes, as long as a whole year.

"The newest paintings look simpler (than the older ones). But I draw more than 20 layers on each," she says, adding that it takes a lot of time, but that she discovers "things" every day by using this technique.

The thin layers are at times transparent, creating some sort of perspective, although

a very abstract one. The colours are exquisitely combined, mostly bright.

The exhibition opens Saturday Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation and continues until the end of the month. "It is my first exhibition in Jordan. I came because I like to share my work with my people. I just hope they will appreciate it," said the small woman with a pleasant smile.

Princess Di, by just being there, fights for AIDS victims

By Anne Senior
Reuters

LONDON — One British superstar was struck down by AIDS this week but another is continuing her controversial fight to enlighten people about the disease.

Princess Diana, 30 international covergirl and future queen of England, has become one of the most influential voices calling for care and compassion for AIDS victims. While some other royals insist on wearing

gloves for all engagements, Princess Diana hugs AIDS babies.

She began her work to promote AIDS care four years ago and professionals in the field regard her as an invaluable asset.

But despite the publicity she brings to the cause, AIDS workers say British still has a long way to go in educating people about the disease and dispelling prejudices against its victims, particularly homosexuals.

The death of Freddie Mer-

cury, lead singer of the pop group Queen and one of the great showmen of rock music, again highlighted the waste of creative talent which AIDS so often leaves in its wake.

Many British commentators chose to focus on his outrageous lifestyle and male lovers, with one newspaper calling him an evil influence. The reaction dismayed some AIDS groups such as the Terrence Higgins Trust which say heterosexuals are equally at risk.

Courtiers say Princess Diana, wife of heir to the throne Prince Charles, made up her own mind to join the fight against AIDS. She has visited AIDS wards in British, the United States, Canada and Brazil, once giving a girl dying of AIDS a ride in her Rolls-Royce.

Overcoming her innate shyness the princess has given speeches explaining how AIDS is transmitted and asserting that it is wrong to ostracise its sufferers.

She recently became pa-

tron of the National AIDS Trust, a leading charity. On the World AIDS Day, the princess opened a London conference exploring the impact of the disease on young people.

By making a point of comforting AIDS victims, she sends out a strong message of tolerance and sympathy for those whose lives have been devastated by the epidemic.

"A handshake from her is worth a thousand words from us," said one doctor after Princess Diana opened a new

AIDS unit.

When she was first photographed shaking hands with a 32-year-old AIDS sufferer in 1987, the story was splashed all over the media as a challenge to those who shun victims completely for fear of picking up the disease.

At the time, some royalists feared her golden halo would be tarnished by involvement with what many thought was an exclusively homosexual problem.

Newspaper articles suggested she was only taking up

the cause under pressure from Buckingham Palace, home of Queen Elizabeth, for her to acquire a more mature image. Secretly, these people said, she was horrified by the idea of touching an AIDS patient.

But a spokesman for the National AIDS Trust said: "Her courageous public stand has helped Britain to realise that AIDS is not confined to certain groups. It can happen to anyone and everyone needs to protect themselves against it."

"She has shown that people with AIDS are not a race apart, and her example has led others to treat them with more respect and more compassion."

Nevertheless, the princess is said to receive hate mail about her work.

And her own life has not escaped the shadow of the disease. One of her close friends, Adrian Ward-Jackson, fellow dance fan and former director of Britain's Royal Ballet, died of AIDS in July. He was 41.

Jackie Joyner Kersee — looking to the 1992 games

By Philippa Neave

NEW YORK — At 29, Jackie Joyner Kersee, by some accounts, may have reached the peak of her career. Considered the world's greatest female athlete, she upheld her reputation by winning the gold medal for long jump in the recent World Athletics Championships in Tokyo.

Despite an injury that caused her to withdraw from competing in her specialty, the gruelling seven-event heptathlon, Joyner Kersee says her career is nowhere near over. She has got her eye firmly fixed on the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, and further still, on the 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympic Games. "I would love to end my career in a recent interview. "It would be ideal for me because my Olympian career started with a silver medal in L.A. in 1984 and I would love to end it with a gold in my own country."

By then, she will be 34. "I would have accomplished everything an athlete would want out of the track and field. I am trying to be the first woman ever to win more than one gold in the heptathlon. I can see doing it in 1992 and it would be ideal to do it again in 1996."

While she is receiving therapy for the sprained ankle she suffered in Tokyo, Joyner Kersee is back in training for Barcelona. Her routine starts at 6.30 or 7 a.m. with a leisurely 30- or 40-minute jog around the Los Angeles suburb where she and her husband, coach Bob Kersee, recently bought a home. She then sets off for UCLA (University of California Los Angeles) for a one- or two-hour weight-lift work-out, followed by a massage before an afternoon of drills, perfecting techniques of run-

ning, jumping or throwing. When the summer season approaches, which is when most track and field events are held, Joyner Kersee trains up to 12 hours a day. Diet is an important part of her programme. "I have to make sure I eat well — a lot of carbohydrates, like pancakes in the morning and pasta. My mother balanced meals out pretty well and as a young girl, I already knew I wanted to be successful in athletics so I ate well all along, because I knew that once I got older, it would be a shock to the system trying to change all of a sudden." But she has her weaknesses, she admits. "I do have a problem with junk food. I love potato chips. I would eat one large bag or even two a day. Now I've got it down to one small bag a day. Sometimes I stop and get a hamburger — double cheese burger, no ketchup — it's all right to do it sometimes, only in moderation!"

She was born on March 3, 1962 in East St. Louis, Illinois and grew up in a poor, rough suburb. Her parents were little more than children themselves when they married at 14 and 16, and her father, Alfred Joyner struggled to feed the four children who came in rapid succession.

In 1988, 26 years later, Jacqueline stood on the podium of the Seoul Olympic Games with the world at her feet. Tens of thousands of spectators in the stadium and millions of viewers around the world acclaimed the gold medalist and world record holder in the heptathlon as the planet's greatest female athlete. Her voice fills with emotion when she recalls the moment: Twice she went up on the podium, the second time to receive a gold medal for long jump. This was the

crowning moment of an already impressive career studded with records, prizes and distinctions. "I have never been able to get close to explaining and expressing the feeling. I shed tears of joy and thought of all the people who had pulled for me, all my friends and family who helped me get to that point... Think of it, you have captured the world, and when they play the national anthem, that time is your time!"

Joyner Kersee, known simply as Jackie or JJK to her friends, had waited a long time for that moment. "I got started at the age of 9," she explains in her soft, sing-song voice. "When I joined the Junior Olympic programme." The local coach, Nino Fennoy, encouraged her to quit as captain of the cheer-leading squad to dedicate herself to athletics. "He was very influential in the community and tried to inspire young kids to do something with their lives," she says. Sensing he had the makings of a truly great athlete in his hands, Fennoy guided Joyner Kersee through a series of Junior Olympic competitions, as well as basketball and volleyball matches. He encouraged her to practice as many disciplines as possible. "I wanted to be a 400m runner but he suggested it was best to be versatile and while you are young, to try to develop your skills so you won't be left out if some opportunity presents itself to you."

Joyner Kersee won a basketball scholarship to UCLA, where she started some serious athletic training. Persistence is what got her that far, she says. "I remember my first competition when I was 9, a 400m race. I came in dead last. But the next week, in practice, I could tell I was



Jackie Joyner Kersee

getting faster. It was a matter of staying with it and learning that in order to be a winner, you have to accept losing first."

Her family was not keen to see her go from the tight-knit community to which she belonged. Los Angeles seemed a world away. "A lot of people said L.A. was too far away and that I'd get lost in the big city, in the fast lane. But I told people that, first I wanted a good education, and second, the only fast lane I'm going to be in is on the track — I'm not a party person. I had my priorities set. I knew what I wanted to do."

Although success, prizes, sponsorships and advertising contracts have brought her wealth and her lifestyle has changed, Joyner Kersee has not forgotten her roots. "I feel I never really left the ghetto," she says. "I found out that once you become successful, there are a lot of pressures put on you, especially peer pressure, when you are young. I have not let success change me. I ask my friends not to treat me differently, because I am the same Jackie."

One of the first things she did after she won the gold medals was to return to East St. Louis to see her family

and all the people she grew up with. She regularly returns to the area as part of the many talking tours she gives. "I do a lot of work with the community, I feel I should spread some of my experience," she explains. "I give motivational talks to kids and allow them to ask questions. I talk to them about fitness because they do not seem too concerned. I'm not asking all of them to become world-class athletes, but I tell them a healthy body gives you a healthy mind and helps you care about yourself and about others."

Joyner Kersee is also a member of the President's Council on Fitness and Sports, of the board of directors of the Women's Sports Foundation and of several other organisations. And she founded the Jackie Joyner Kersee Community Foundation: "I set this up to give kids the opportunity to be successful by awarding scholarships so they can pursue their ambitions and get an education."

So far, Joyner Kersee has not had as much time as she would like to work with the foundation, but she always tries to give a few minutes to teenagers who come to her for advice. "My advice to young aspiring athletes or any youth who wants to be successful at anything is: You've got to have a dream. You have to work hard at bringing that dream to realisation. You also have to understand that once that has happened, and regardless of how high you may climb, you have to continue to work hard. It is never going to be as easy as it was when you were climbing that hill. Once you're at the top, that is when you are going to have to work the hardest."

"As a young girl, I didn't have that many options. One

was to graduate from high school and get a job, the other was to try and get a scholarship and the third was to get married." At the time girls were not encouraged to be too sporty. "There weren't many scholarships for girls and many people believed it wasn't feminine to do sports. I did not think that was true, you can be a lady on the field as well as off the field."

Certainly, Joyner Kersee is known for the meticulous care she takes of her appearance, sporting an elegant style that fits well with her lean muscular body — 150 lb for 5 ft 10 in. A style seen as almost conservative compared to her flamboyant sister-in-law, Florence Griffith Joyner, best known as Flo-Jo, a remarkable athlete in her own right who won a silver medal for the 200m in the 1984 Los Angeles Games and delighted crowds with fluorescent outfits and long painted nails. Sports seem to run in the Joyner family. Flo-Jo is married to Joyner Kersee's older brother, Al Joyner, gold medalist for the triple jump in the 1984 summer Olympics. "Our parents did not push us into athletics, but once we had decided that it was what we wanted to do, they supported us 100 per cent," recalls Joyner Kersee.

Today, as in the early days, her motivation comes from within: "I wanted to be the best, and accepting second or third wasn't good enough," she says. Another motivating force was her coach, and now husband, Bob Kersee, who trained her at UCLA where she took a year off from her studies in history to work on getting into the 1984 Olympic team. She won a silver medal in the heptathlon. "I had been picked to win the gold but came up short by five points," she recalls. "I had a

hamstring problem that affected me so bad on the inside that I was in such turmoil, I could not perform. After that, I told myself it would never happen again and that was my driving force."

She needed plenty of it at the 1988 Seoul games. The heptathlon involves seven events — 100m hurdle, high jump, shot put, 200m and 800m races, long jump and javelin throw — and is one of the most demanding athletic performances. But physical endurance is not enough, she says. "I believe athletics is 85 to 90 per cent mental. You can take an athlete with as much talent as me, but if I'm tougher mentally, I'm going to come out on top. You have to be mentally strong enough to go through the pressure."

Her secret is something that lies within each of us but must be practiced, as much as running or jumping, she emphasises: "You have to concentrate on positiveness. feed yourself positive energy. If you tell yourself you can't do something, nine times out of 10 you won't be able to do it... I do a lot of visualisation, at home, on my own. I visualise myself being successful, going through different events; I make that a part of my daily routine."

In the meantime, she and her husband have been talking about a baby. The two have decided 1994 would be a good year — it would give Joyner Kersee time to recover and get back in shape for the 1996 Olympics. After that, she wants to try a new tack: "I would like to write a fitness book for kids. I do a lot of writing on my own. I would also like to write about my personal experience, growing up in the ghetto, going to the big city and becoming successful" — World News Link.

Children's Birthdays

By Maha Addasi

There is nothing that beats baby sitting for one child more than baby sitting for many children. And how better to do that than at a birthday party for a five-year-old. Where all the kids this five-year-old ever came across, and whom he never allowed as much as to touch his toys, will present themselves at his birthday party and share his happiness on this glorious occasion.

The disaster takes place even before the party. With twelve other children to invite, the mother has this "ingenious" idea to include the birthday boy in the invitation process. This little five-year-old to ends up having grudges that far outnumber those of a fifty-year-old, and the memory of an elephant. He rules out six out of the twelve potential invitees off-hand because of heart-rendering reasons like being tricked away from a swing by one of those kids when he was three, or being called a name by another when he was four.

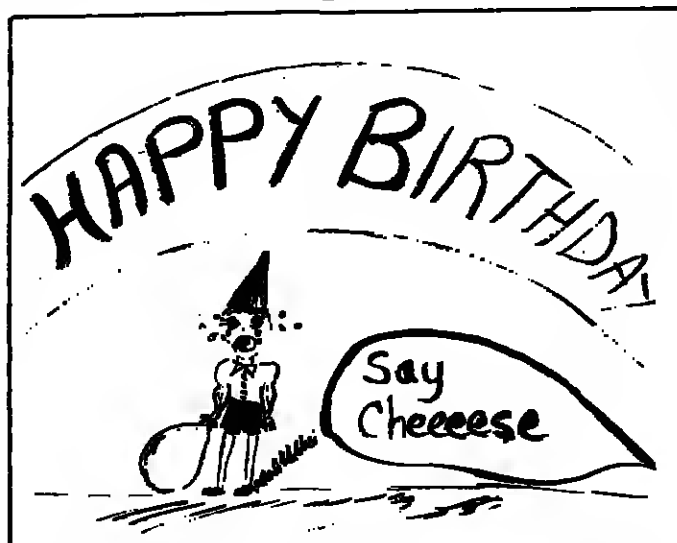
The mother holding the party should, under normal circumstances, be relieved that now she is going to chaperone only seven children at once. But based on the equation: Child + normal = Syntax error. Those present at this particular event will suffer traumatic experiences that they will carry throughout their entire lives, or until their sixth birthday.

Here is a typical scene: The mother prepares a special birthday cake; one that is a rectangular section that looks like a beach, with a sea made blue icing and a beach with beige creme. Jello, a must for children, is also prepared. Birthday games are organized with prizes set out, and decorations including balloons are stuck on all available walls.

After a great deal of anticipation, the six "little devils" show up at the door, all ready to "tackle" the birthday. After calming them down the chaperone suggests one of the games like passing the parcel. This is a parcel made up of layer upon layer of newspapers between which are placed a few gift items. The parcel is passed along to music and when the music stops the person who has the parcel in their hands takes one layer of newspaper off and takes the gift there. This should happen until all the gifts are gone. The first such round goes well. The second round initiates tension. By the time the third round comes along the birthday kid is crying. Now, there are two reasons for this. The first is that the birthday child has not yet gotten a turn to unwrap part of the parcel and the second is that the persons who did get the chance are suddenly people the birthday kid no longer likes.

Meanwhile pictures are being taken to document the event and the person who is supposed to be the happiest is the one who is the most miserable.

The next event, which is the musical chairs ends up just



the same as the first game with more kids crying along with the birthday child making more of a birthday atmosphere. So to take the children's minds off such tragedies, the food is set out. All the kids want some cake. They want the sea part and not the beach. The cream is so convincing it actually looks like sand and all seven children refuse to get anywhere near it, so there is less cake to go around. And, of course, there is a new way to eat jello now — using fingers. These are well-disciplined children who never ever dreamed of eating jello with their hands at home. They suddenly develop this appetite for risk and want to see what would happen if they did. A lot happens but the mother will mop it up.

Gift-unwrapping time arrives just as the door-bell rings. A great-aunt has brought some candied apples for the birthday child, as a gift. But the sharp-eyed kids see these "red" apples and there is no convincing them that they are for the birthday child. So the kids get to eat from them and the birthday child starts to cry and the camera records that on film.

The rest of the gifts once unwrapped no longer look as thrilling as when they were wrapped and the birthday child loses interest in everything. It looks like the party did not meet up with this five-year-old's expectations. And looking through the photographs the parents realise that they have inflicted torture on their child by holding this party.

Not that these parents learn their lesson, but the following year they host an event for these same seven children. Only this time it is a fancy-dress party and everyone, "by coincidence" is dressed like a devil expect the birthday child. Think of the "fun" this birthday will bring!

Green grows the grass where elephants fly

By E. Yaghi

Somewhere in a deep hidden valley guarded by black mountains, the sun seldom shines, people rarely smile and street curbs are as high as an elephant's eye and their conquest, a gymnastic feat. Within this obscure area little known to the outside world, there dwells a tribe who, through the year, look like their eyes have died and they are open-eyed. These tribal people have been afflicted with a cataract-like disease which predominates the land. This disease usually strikes and nearly blinds the majority of the people who have become susceptible to this virus caused invasion. Their eyes have become veiled making their vision blurred.

The strange characteristic about this disease is that it concentrates its attack on a nucleus of crème-de-la-crèmes whose heads resemble the shape of a dome. While blindness in itself once had formerly been considered a lack of sight, it had now become the way to be or "moda." Less fortunate creatures who in other countries considered gifted with sight were frequently shunned. While this contagious virus veiled the eyes, at the same time it afflicted the ears, thus causing a certain degree of hearing loss in its victims.

Somehow among the befuddled tribesmen, a man with sight (otherwise known as an idealist in the outside world) formulated a new ideology whose concepts were of foreign origin. Although his philosophy was a crude political one based on tribal autonomy, his doctrine spread like wildfire among the confused natives of the "land where elephants fly" and it became a password at tribal gatherings around campfires and meetings of dome-heads who professed to hold the secret key of knowledge locked within their muddled minds.

Surprisingly, the youngsters in the tribe were immune to the disease. And, in spite of the fact that their minds were keen, eager and curious, many great hurdles and obstacles were placed in their paths by the dome-heads in order to stifle their quest for knowledge. Thus, frustration grew but few could hear the protests of the sighted because a thick layer of wool had grown in the ears of the dead eyes.

Some brave men not yet stricken with the veiled virus spoke through megaphones to the diseased, but the blind and deaf only saw what they chose and generally cared to only hear themselves speak so they dismissed the wisdom seekers with a wave of their hands stating, "Autonomy is a long and painful process and we are new to this concept, therefore, we must crawl at a snail's pace, one millimetre at a time."

Existing norms of tribal elders came and went according

to the whims of the tribunal dome-heads and progress within the dark valley moved from bad to worse. All steps taken in a positive direction were steered by an ancient medieval code of 1 step forward and 2 steps back — nowhere or back at the beginning. Every wrong decision and disaster was blamed on conditions of weather or nefarious forces which were rumoured to lurk just beyond the hovering mountains of the barren valley. Once in a while on a clear day, elephants flew. Although no one really saw them flying, the dome-heads exclaimed: "Did you see that elephant take off?" or, "My, what a fine landing that elephant made!"

Those who could genuinely see, scratched their heads in disbelief and whispered: "But everyone knows elephants don't fly! Besides, if the dome-heads have veiled eyes, how do they see them? Next, they'll tell us that there is green growing grass too!"

And sure enough, that's exactly what happened. Choking over clouds of red dust, the dome-heads boasted: "My what lovely green grass we have growing in our valley!"

One day, a small child passing by with his father, heard such a statement and protested: "Where's the grass? We live in a desert. Everyone knows that. There's no such thing as flying elephants. In fact, we don't even have elephants that walk!"

But before the wool-eared dome-head correctly heard the uncloud truth of the child, his father clapped his hand over the boy's mouth so no more words could escape.

"What's that? What did the child say?" questioned the dome-head who normally could hardly hear a thing.

"Nothing, O feudal superior, sir. He was just admiring the green grass and elephants flying overhead," said the father who was himself newly infected with the veiled virus and tufts of wool sprouted from his ears.

"Ah, I see. Well you seem to be an intelligent man who shows great promise!" the notable dome-head said with an obvious satisfied look as he patted the emerging protégé on his shoulder. Then he stated: "Say, fine son you have there too! This lad is our tomorrow. In the future his kind will become our tribal elders. You're doing a stupendous job raising him!"

And so he was. In all probability, one day soon the boy would outgrow his innocence and sight. His head would spurt into the shape of a dome and tufts of wool would sprout from his ears unless of course some brave scientist still plagued with sight could find a cure for the disease which had swept over the barren land of green growing grass and whimsical flying elephants!

Anti-AIDS drive slows spread of disease in Bulgaria

SOFIA (R) — An obsessive campaign against AIDS by Bulgaria's ousted Communist regime has slowed the spread of the disease with far greater success than in most Western countries, doctors said.

Only nine out of nine million Bulgarians are known to have died from AIDS. A further three are suffering from the full disease and 98 have the HIV virus.

"We still have not encountered a single prostitute with AIDS," said Central AIDS Laboratory chief Rada Argirova.

Hardline Communist leader Todor Zhivkov, who was ousted from power two years ago, carried out a ruthless testing drive for the killer disease. Anyone who refused compulsory screening could be fined or forced by police to take the test.

All Bulgarians aged 16-65 and foreigners resident in the country for more than 30 days were summoned to take a test at public clinics. Couples wishing to get married and people returning from abroad had to take an extra test. Pregnant women were tested twice and foreigners with the virus were deported.

The costly programme, which screened about one third of the population, was halted after Mr. Zhivkov's removal from power.

"In one year of screening of about 400,000 people we found only four cases," Ms. Argirova told Reuters.

Ms. Argirova said Bulgaria was still in the first stages of AIDS infection and health authorities hoped with the help of the World Health



A visually striking graphics deliver AIDS prevention message in Polish, Bulgarian, Czech and Russian.

Organisation (WHO) to stop it spreading further.

Nearly half of Bulgaria's HIV carriers are married to other sufferers and exposed themselves voluntarily to the virus.

"These cases are mainly wives of 40 Bulgarian sailors who were the first to contract the AIDS virus in Bulgaria," Ms. Argirova said. "These women refuse to take preventive measures in their sexual

contacts with their already ill husbands."

More than 70 per cent of the AIDS patients in Bulgaria are heterosexual. Only eight patients are homosexual.

Ms. Argirova said 11 Bulgarians caught the virus from infected blood transfusions but there had been no such infection since compulsory screening of blood samples was introduced in 1987.

She added that one of the main reasons for the post-Communist spread of AIDS was a traditional refusal by Bulgarian men to use condoms.

"A typical Bulgarian phenomenon is that AIDS sufferers refuse medical treatment," Ms. Argirova said. "That is why our mortality rate among AIDS cases is pretty high — more than nine per cent."

Bulgarian AIDS cases are also getting younger. In the past the average age of the cases was about 35 but this has now dropped to between 21 and 23 years.

Ms. Argirova, who headed AIDS research during Mr. Zhivkov's rule, said her own studies were not easy.

In 1985 she was put under investigation for treason because she imported into Bulgaria AIDS virus samples for scientific analysis without observing customs formalities.

"I was virtually accused of organising a bacteriological war against Bulgaria," she said. She added that a number of Bulgarian AIDS patients were used secretly as "guinea pigs" for previously untested drugs in 1987 and 1988. One patient died.

"It is impossible to say now how many people were involved in this criminal experiment," she said.

"These patients were deprived of the only drug which would have been useful to them, AZT, which was also available at that time in Bulgaria. This is a crime."

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Dec. 5

8:30 The Simpsons

Mr. Simpson admits that he is a failure because he is never satisfied with his job.

9:10 NBA Basketball

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Parnell
Starring: Clark Gable and Myrna Loy

A 19th century Irish politician comes to grief through his love for a married woman.

Friday, Dec. 6

8:30 Coach

The coach discovers that his contract stipulates that he should act as an academic advisor. He performs this duty with Leonard, the student who is a social outcast.

9:10 Shakespeare's Macbeth

10:00 News in English

10:20 W.I.O.U.

Pair O'Guys

An inside story about the relation between Channel 12 staff, the news director and the anchorwoman and the young reporter preparing for her wedding.

Saturday, Dec. 7

8:30 Totally Hidden Video

9:00 Encounter

9:30 Life On The Land

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

Born in East L.A.

Starring: Daniel Stern

A Mexican-American, born in Los Angeles goes to the Mexican border to meet



The Golden Girls on JTV Channel 2 Sunday at 8:30

his cousin who is coming for a visit. He is arrested at the border and transferred to Mexico with others, despite his attempts to prove his American nationality.

Sunday, Dec. 8

8:30 Golden Girls

Triple Play

Blanche does not want to part with her car, but she puts it up for sale to get to know more male companions.

9:10 Murder She Wrote

Mirror, Mirror On The Wall
Jessica investigates the murder of the P.I. and almost gets killed by the murderer who tries to poison her.

10:00 News in English

10:20 All The Rivers Run

Brighton's wife moves to the circus to work with her uncle Charles. There, she meets a man who tries to have an affair with her. She is

Monday, Dec. 9

8:30 Hey Dad

Martin rebukes his sons for failing to help in the household chores although the work is distributed among the children.

9:10 Nippon

Catching Up

A documentary that shows how the Japanese industry caught up and came back to full strength following the devastation of World War II. Thus enabling Japan to become the third economic power in the world.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Gabriel's Fire

Judgments
Victoria wins a case although she would have

been better off without knowing anything about it.

Tuesday, Dec. 10

8:30 Who's The Boss

Starlight Memories

Nick and his wife meet Tony at a party, and they tell their "love story." Tony's imagination makes him think he was in Nick's place.

9:10 Our House

A woman leaves her child with Jessie and travels to Ireland. Jessie takes the child home where everyone helps in taking care of the baby.

10:00 News in English

10:20 French Feature Film

La Petite Fille Modèle

After losing both parents, a wealthy girl goes to live with her grandmother who runs the girl's companies. The grandmother dies and the girl begins to shoulder her responsibilities.

Wednesday, Dec. 11

8:30 Kate And Allie

Jenny thinks that the band leader Howard, has fallen in love with her as she has done with him.

9:10 Cosmos

A documentary about the French Egyptologist, Champollion, who in 1828 managed to unravel the key to the Hieroglyphic language of ancient Egypt. With this find the French scholar uncovered the whereabouts of ancient Egyptian cities.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Law And Order

Everybody's Favourite Bagman

Investigation of the Murder of a city councilman leads to uncovering corruption in the city government.

B.C.



هنا من الاردن

Mozart music lives on in Jordan

By Jean-Claude Elias

Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — Anyone who, since the beginning of this year, has listened to at least a couple of times to the news, been to a concert, read no more than one or two magazines, listened for a few minutes to the radio or watched television, even half asleep knows by now that 1991 has been declared Mozart's year worldwide. Those with just a little more information know the reason why: 1991 is the bicentennial of the great composer's death. The international media have perfectly carried and amplified the event. Two hundred years ago exactly, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart passed away Dec. 5, 1791 at the early age of 36.

Beyond Western culture,



Kifah Fakhouri

beyond, even classical music, Mozart is undoubtedly the most widely known and popular composer who ever lived on planet Earth to-date.

What could be added here in Jordan to all what has been said or written this year on the genius of Mozart? His life and his work have been scrutinised enough by specialists, analysts and musicologists. So instead of redundant history telling and analysis, the Jordan Times talked to Jordanian musicians and music lover and asked them what they thought about the composer.

Kifah Fakhouri, director of the National Music Conservatory, Noor Al Hussein Foundation, admits that Mozart is certainly one of his favorite musicians. According to him, Mozart's music directly talks to the heart, which is what makes it so easy to like. His favorite piece by the composer is the famous "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik" (A Little Night Music).

Mr. Fakhouri says that through its deceptive simplicity, the "Petite Musique de Nuit" as it is also entitled in French, is a masterpiece which perfectly illustrates the possibilities of the strings. If he has to go on a remote and deserted island, this is the one Mozart piece he would like to take with him.



Rula Cameran Nabool

Rula Cameran Nabool, one of the country's most famous pianists, says that although Mozart was "obviously a unique musician," one cannot classify and assert that he was the greatest of them all. For Miss Nabool, Mozart's music "flows easily." Asked whether in her opinion his music is less perfect technically than Bach, as some analysts like to explain, she said: "The comparison is irrelevant. Bach was maybe more a mathematician than a musician, while Mozart was totally different. Anyway, one can definitely say that Bach tremendously contributed to establish the structure of classical music and that without Bach there would be no Mozart."

For Mamdouh Bisharat, a true music lover, Mozart was

the one and only. He admires the composer's universal aspect and the incredible variety in music forms that he offered to the world. Mr. Bisharat said: "Mozart wrote for virtually all instruments, all forms and always with the same spirit and beauty. Mozart music expresses all moods, it never bores you. Compared to Mozart, Bach has no variety in his music. Mozart is a confirmation of what a musicologist said about music being a 'holistic art.'" Mr. Bisharat's favourite piece is the Divertimento No. 11. He has several books on Mozart he finds extremely useful to better understand his music.

Khaled Dajani, a pianist who has the talent to be a jazz musician as well as a classical performer, said if



Mamdouh Bisharat



Nancy Zananiri

one had to select the one genius among all composers, it would definitely be Mozart. For him, "the Requiem is the greatest vocal work ever written." The spontaneity and ease with which Mozart is known to have written music, at the incredibly early age of 5, has certainly a lot to do with the appeal it has to different kinds of listeners. On his desert island Mr. Dajani would take the Requiem, Don Giovanni opera and the piano Concerto in D Minor.

The conductor of the famous Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) choir and a genuine connoisseur in music, Karim Bawab, reaffirms: "Mozart is beyond any doubt the greatest composer I know." He quoted music producer Erik Smith, from the compact disc

collection that Philips has released this year and which covers all Mozart's work: "Mozart is loved by children and philosophers, by politicians and generals, by adventurers and even by musicians after a hard rehearsal day... It is important to reject the character that the movie Amadeus tried to impose of a miserable and vulgar, even idiotic Mozart. He was in fact one of the most prolific and intelligent men who ever lived."

Mr. Bawab is amazed at the huge volume and high quality of music that the composer produced in his relatively short lifetime. "Just writing the score of all Mozart's work would take so long... They didn't have computers to help them in the eighteenth century you know?"

Asked how could one explain the magnitude of Mozart's genius, Mr. Bawab said that the great musician was certainly different from other men, he was "born with it" and his father Leopold Mozart who was Amadeus' teacher, certainly contributed in a large part to what his son became.

A pianist who was enchanted at playing Mozart's sonata in A major at the age of 9, Nancy Zananiri, acknowledges the genius in him, but doesn't think he must be re-

garded as the greatest. "His music is so simple and at the same time so great." "People like to remember that Mozart started writing good music when he was only a child, it makes him even more popular in their eyes." Mrs. Zananiri has a weakness for the Magic Flute and the piano sonatas, more particularly the third variation of the Sonata in A Major KV 331.

Asked about Mozart technical writing and the harmonic textures in his music, Mrs. Zananiri said "His compositions are extremely harmonious, but technique is not important to the listener, what matters in the end is what the ear accepts or rejects."

The genius from Salzburg is certainly the most played musician known. From con-



Khaled Dajani



Karim Bawab

certs all over the world to recordings, one can also mention "exotic" arrangements of Mozart music by the Lebanese Rahbani Brothers who have taken the main theme from the 1st movement of the Symphony No. 40 to make a song for Fairuz, to the "Alla Turca" programmed as a telephone waiting tune.

However different people opinion can be on such a subject, almost everybody agrees that Mozart music is beautiful, colourful, easy to listen to and understand without being simplistic. It is accessible to all and it has reached, touched and moved listeners from all countries, cultures and ages.

If this is not genius, then what is?

Cairo Film Institute -- only the best need apply

By Katia Sabet

CAIRO — Its prestige radiates from Morocco to Saudi Arabia, yet to many aspiring film-makers in the Middle East the Cairo Film Institute appears like an impenetrable fortress. While Egypt is being challenged as the flagship of Middle Eastern cinema and television production, the institute is still considered the cradle of much of the region's talent. It has bred generations of famous film-makers and its teachers include some of today's greatest masters of the 7th art.

Gaining a place to study at the institute has never been easy, but recently admission requirements have become even tougher. In the past the



Dr. Shawqui Ali Mohammad presides over the destiny of the prestigious Cairo Film Institute which is undergoing a technical transformation.

institute required a good score on the secondary education diploma and put candidates through a grueling series of interviews with the top names in the profession: Directors screen writers, directors of photography. "Two years ago even to make admission even more difficult," explains Dr. Shawqui Ali Mohammad, the dean of the institute. "We did this for two reasons, first of all because we felt the preliminary interviews were not sufficient to allow us to evaluate the real personality of the prospective student. Secondly, the audio-visual has become such a key media that we cannot afford to go wrong: We cannot put future production in the hands of

people who are not perfectly qualified... in terms of artistic capabilities, and perhaps more importantly, on the moral and intellectual level."

There are other considerations too, adds Mohammad Abdul Aziz, a movie director who teaches at the institute: "One day, one of these students will become my assistant or my colleague: I do not want to surround myself with people who are not completely capable of doing their job."

While thousands of youths apply, the number of those who actually enroll every year can be counted in the dozens. "The institute only takes eight students per section (there are eight sections)," says the dean. "We have introduced a new procedure which includes a two-week workshop. Students who have passed a preliminary written test are carefully examined by a board of teachers, as well as by psychologists. Prospective students are also required to produce a few videos to show what they can do before they have even started classes."

In a nearby room, aspiring students are clustered around two or three television cameras — most of them have never seen a camera before. Supervising them are Dr. Nagwa Mahrous, director Tewfik Saleh and movie critic Rafiq Sabban. A young woman, Reem Abdul Anwar, exudes enthusiasm: "It's my turn soon!" she explains. "I'm going to shoot a short clip: First we will see a pair of feet in old tennis shoes

standing by a lamp-post. Then a pair of gold sandals walks up to the feet in the tennis shoes. We see a small envelope passing from one person's hand into the other person's... What I am trying to do is to speak about drugs and drug addicts." She started the selection process with the idea of becoming a screen-writing student, but her first contact with the camera has changed her outlook; she now wants to learn how to direct, if she is accepted.

Meanwhile, in another part of the room, prospective students have set up a café setting and are working together to shoot a scene. This is their first taste of the real teamwork that is involved in movie-making. "Students in seven of the eight sections at the institute are called upon to work together from day one," explains Dr. Shawqui. "All the section — directing, script-writing, photography, editing, production, sound, set-making — work together. The only independent section is cartoon animation. Starting in the first year, students work together in the practical classes and present a project at the end of their four years. This year, for the first time all eight projects produced were bought by Egyptian television. The pieces were written, directed, executed and produced by our fourth-year students. The productions were good enough to become the object of tough price negotiations between us and the broadcasting authorities."

For the time being, the team work is designed to sort out the capabilities of the applicants. "There were 500 of us when we took the written test, now we're down to 200, and two-thirds of these are going to be eliminated," muses Ihab Lamei. He is already bubbling over with ideas about what he would like to do as a movie director. Lamei already holds a university diploma in journalism. He had a job but wants to go back to school to study for what is his real passion: The cinema. "I have known for a long time that film would be my real mode of expression. As a kid I would play hockey from school to go and watch movies in the neighbourhood theatres. But it has taken me years and a diploma in journalism to build up the courage to come and try my luck and see if I can get a place at the institute," he explains.

He is not the only one to have studied something else before seeking a slot at the institute. Nashwa Mohsen has a diploma from the Cairo Academy of Music. She studied string instruments and ballet for 10 years. Now she wants to become a screen writer. "I feel a very strong need to write and express myself in pictures as well. I am still fascinated by music and dance, but the need to write is stronger than anything," she says. It may be part of her genetic make-up, because her father is Mohsen Zayed, one of Egypt's best acclaimed film directors. In fact, quite a number of chil-

dren of famous movie personalities are enrolled at the institute, such as the sons of directors Ali Abdul Khaleq and Mohammad Radi, and the son of Mamdouh Al Leici, director general of Egyptian television production.

The list of teachers is also studded with celebrities, including directors Youssef Chahine, Salah Abou Seif and Tewfik Saleh. Many of them have presided over the important changes that have taken place at the institute over the years since it was founded in the early 1960s by a pioneer of the Egyptian cinema, the legendary Mohammad Karim.

Explains Dr. Nagwa Mahrous who was one of the institute's first graduates: "In the early days in the 1960s, the teachers were the veterans who had created the Egyptian cinema. The practical teaching was excellent but on the theoretical side and as far as the personal development of each student went, there were serious deficiencies. There was also a shortage of equipment, laboratories and funds. These days, and for the past five years, the institute has taken some great strides forward... we have received some new supplies, film and various pieces of equipment. New sets, one for movies and the other for TV shoots will be inaugurated soon. We acquired some new video cameras so this year, for the first time, we have been able to introduce special TV pro-



Having successfully passed the first screening tests to enroll at Cairo's cinema school, Reem Abdul Anwar wants to do a film spot denouncing the drug trade.

duction classes." While a majority of the students are Egyptian, the institute accepts foreigners — currently a total of about 10 who hail from Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Sudan and Denmark. Egyptian students pay only a token registration fee, but study costs for foreigners are high: \$6,000 for the first year, and a further \$3,000 for each successive year.

No doubt some of the budding film-makers and hopeful candidates will one day see their names in lights and on the big screen like so many of their predecessors. Surely some of them will remain loyal to the institute that taught them their trade and they too will return to teach the next generation — World News Link.

Cambodian film has become a national obsession

By Jane MacArtney

PHNOM PENH — Cambodians had a choice of more than 100 new films last year — every one of them an emotion-charged, shush-filled romance with a happy ending.

Film has been the most popular form of entertainment in Cambodia since Prince Norodom Sihanouk launched the domestic film industry, producing, directing and starring in movies in the 1950s after he became king.

Cambodian television celebrated the ex-monarch's return from 13 years in exile this month by showing some of his early creations — simple plots in which the prince-hero comes to the rescue of the princess-heroine, played by his real-life wife, Princess

Monique.

Modern Cambodian film-makers are heirs to the Sihanouk tradition, churning out epic love stories distinguished chiefly by their saccharine repetitiveness.

Cambodians can't get enough of them.

Crowds pile into cinemas for the first of the day's four showings at 8.00 a.m.

The production industry can hardly keep pace. To satisfy the insatiable and audience demand, movie producers now make videos rather than films.

"Film is more difficult and costs more money," said director Lim Mareth, 38, who had finished eight productions by June this year and has four currently in production.

"Everyone makes videos

rather than films because they are cheaper and because of the government restrictions," he said. "You can lose a lot more money if the government cuts bits out of films than out of videos."

In the garden of a large private house Lim Mareth has hired in the Phnom Penh suburbs, he guides his actors into position for the camera before an audience of ragged neighbourhood children and stray cows grazing on the edge of the lawn.

"We add the sound later," he said over a cacophony of car horns and giggling children.

It takes him about six weeks to complete one video-film at a cost of five million riel (\$5,000). He usually makes a profit of 1.5 million riel (\$1,500) — and has

earned twice that — in a country where most people live at subsistence level.

"We only make love stories," said a Vietnam-trained director. "And there are no sad endings. The audience only wants happy endings."

The plot is usually a variation on the theme of beautiful, loyal girl falls in love with spoiled misguided boy who realises error of his ways after much tribulation for the long-suffering heroine. They fall into each other's arms to soaring finale music.

Even such seemingly innocuous storylines must be submitted to the Socialist government's censors in the Ministry of Information.

The film's hero is usually a student or the son of a "bourgeois," explained Lim Mareth. Never a policeman

— not popular with audiences — or the son of a Communist Party official — not acceptable among the ruling party cadre.

A theme currently popular is the protagonist from a wealthy — but amoral — family learning the traditional values of the poor — but typically Cambodian — hero. "The government doesn't want this," said Lim Mareth. "But we still use this kind of plot because the masses like it."

The government has strong views on what it likes and dislikes in the movies.

Kissing and nudity are definitely out. So is crime — violence, rape, murder and robbery are all taboo.

Foreign words — many French words have been adopted into the Khmer lan-

guage — are banned.

"The government thinks these look bad for socialism," said the director. "Such things are not supposed to happen in Cambodia."

"As a director I want more diversity," he said. "I want to make detective movies and films with fighting and shooting, otherwise movies become too repetitive."

"It's difficult to follow the regulation," Lim Mareth said. "If we do then we lose money because this is not what people want to see. If we don't then the government could ban the movie."

Most directors reach a compromise, straying from the rules by about 30 per cent, he said.

The signing last month of a peace accord between the Vietnam-installed Phnom

Penh government and the Khmer Rouge dominated tripartite coalition fighting it for the past 13 years has brought at least one change in film censor guidelines.

Before the accord such honorifics as "Mr" were banned as neo-Socialist. This is now allowed.

All film scripts and set and costume designs — actresses are required to wear the demure Cambodian sarong — must be submitted to the censors in advance for approval.

Cambodia's answer to Marilyn Monroe arrived on location, dressed to flout tradition — in an off-the-shoulder lace blouse, chiffon skirt and high stiletto heels.

"Audiences like me because I'm an arts school graduate and because I look

natural when I act," said the voluptuous, 27-year-old Chandaraty, gesturing with dainty jewelled fingers.

Chosen as Cambodia's best film actress of 1991, Chandaraty has appeared in more than 50 films in the past 12 months, and now commands a fee of 500,000 riel (\$500). "I want to be a good actress and I want people to recognise me," said the daughter of peasants who began her career five years ago after graduating from Phnom Penh's Fine Arts College.

She sat inside the house, keeping a film star-like distance from other actors in the garden for the shooting of I Hate Womeo, But I Love You.

"I only like to act sentimental roles," Chandaraty said.

In the Yukon, drinking mothers damage their babies

By Jon Ferry
Reuters

WHITEHORSE, Yukon — Heavy drinking by mothers in Arctic communities is resulting in the birth of a large number of children who are brain damaged and who later often show criminal behaviour, Canadian health experts say.

They say at least one in 100 babies born in the Yukon territory, which has the highest level of alcohol consumption in Canada, has Foetal Alcohol Syndrome because the mother drank heavily during pregnancy.

The problem is particularly severe among Eskimo and Indian children.

Foetal Alcohol Syndrome produces brain deficiencies which result in learning disabilities and emotional problems such as uncontrollable rage and frustration, experts say.

Many victims of Foetal Alcohol Syndrome wind up in jail, branded as incorrigible criminals without remorse.

Judy Pakozdy, a hospital nursing director in Whitehorse, adopted an Eskimo boy with Foetal

Alcohol Syndrome 10 years ago, confident she could cure him.

But she soon came to realise he would always require constant supervision.

Now 11, he cannot understand why he is different from other children. "He throws two-by-fours (planks) at me. It's difficult to find baby-sitters. He used to chase the teenagers out of the house ...," she said in an interview.

In November, the Yukon government announced a plan to help families of these brain-damaged youngsters. It calls for further spending on public education about alco-

hol abuse and better coordination among health and social service agencies.

Ms. Pakozdy said she was glad the government had finally recognised there was a problem but the plan offered little real help to her and her son.

Whitehorse lawyer Rob Kilpatrick said the Canadian justice system has yet to realise the implications of the disorder.

"My suspicions are that a large number of repeat offenders are offending because of this alcohol-related birth defect. It's a mess," he said.

Mr. Kilpatrick said people with alcohol-related birth defects often do not understand the consequences of their actions.

In October, he said, a 15-year-old boy was sentenced to two years in a treatment centre after entering a Whitehorse home at random and climbing into bed with the couple living there.

"He carefully takes his clothes off, foks them perfectly, takes off his glasses, hops into bed and sexually assaults the lady," Mr. Kilpatrick said.

The youth showed no remorse — typical of criminals

with alcohol-related birth defects.

The Yukon, best known for the Klondike gold rush at the turn of the century, is mountainous territory sandwiched between Alaska and Canada's Northwest Territories. It has some 30,000 inhabitants.

Long, dark winters and a rambunctious frontier spirit, idealised in the jaunty verse of poet Robert Service, fuel the territory's thirst for alcohol.

A recent government study found Yukon women are three times more likely to be

frequent heavy drinkers than women in the rest of Canada.

Each year, Yukon residents over the age of 15 drink an average of 462 bottles of beer, 16 bottles of spirits and 20 bottles of wine. Eighty per cent of the liquor is drunk by a mere 20 per cent of the population.

Former Yukon Education Minister Bea Firth says the territory's government does not understand the seriousness of the disorder.

"They (the government) really don't know what to do with this problem. It is a very unique disability. It destroys the development of the

brain," she said.

Ms. Firth, a former nurse, said the sight of newborns in incubators with delirium tremens is pitiful.

"The babies have convulsions, it just makes your stomach sick," she said.

Ms. Firth said the Yukon government should follow the lead of Alaska and Sweden and appoint a Foetal Alcohol Syndrome co-ordinator to tackle the problem.

But Yukon Health Minister Joyce Hayden said existing agencies could cope if the public was educated better.

Scientists show brain's reorganisation after stroke may help therapy

By Malcolm Ritter
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Scientists have shown for the first time a dramatic reorganisation in the human brain that apparently helps some stroke victims overcome paralysis.

A study of stroke patients who recovered from paralysis or weakness found that impaired portions of their brains had started sharing control over movement with

areas on the opposite side of the brain.

Scientists said further research may suggest ways to promote the recovery process through rehabilitation and perhaps drugs and medical devices.

The study shows "the human adult brain is capable of a lot of reorganisation following injury, and that is the way in which recovery of function is established," said study co-author Dr. Richard Frack-

owiak of the Medical Research Council Cyclotron Unit at Hammersmith Hospital in London.

Dr. Frackowiak's results are "fantastic," said Dr. Howard Fields, professor of neurology and physiology at the University of California, San Francisco.

"People had speculated where in the brain these changes take place, and he's shown that. Nobody knew that before. People had

known that people recover, people have proposed mechanisms, but he's shown the anatomy of it."

Dr. Jack Whitsart, a stroke expert at the Mayo Clinic, cautioned that the study did not prove that the brain reorganisation caused the recovery. Still, he said, "it's an excellent observation which helps us understand the pathophysiology of recovery."

"The fact that you have an

area of the brain that's been badly damaged and can't function again, it gives you some sort of feeling of hope that some other related areas of the brain can help take over some of that function," he said.

Dr. Frackowiak said the reorganisation probably involves altered use of existing brain cell connections rather than establishment of new ones, but that the point is the focus of much speculation

and research.

The study was published earlier this year in the *Annals of Neurology* and presented

recently at a meeting of the American Neurological Association. Dr. Frackowiak also discussed it in a telephone interview.

Strokes damage areas of the brain by cutting off their blood supply. Depending on the function of the damaged area, this may lead to para-

lysis or weakness on one side of the body, speech impairment, loss of memory or other problems.

About 500,000 Americans suffer strokes each year. An estimated 70 per cent of stroke patients initially show paralysis on one side of the body.

The new findings chiefly involve two areas of the brain. One includes the sensory cortex and the motor cortex, collectively called the Sensorimotor Cortex. It lies in a strip running roughly ear-to-ear over the top of the brain. It sends orders out to the body to create voluntary movement.

The other key area involved is the cerebellum, at the base of the brain in the rear. The cerebellum helps coordinate movement.

Dr. Frackowiak and colleagues studied brain function in six recovered stroke patients with Positron emission tomography, which reveals where brain cells are activated and communicating with each other.

All six patients had a spec-

ific area of damage, usually in the left half of the brain. All had recovered from weakness or paralysis of an arm or an entire side of the body.

When patients were asked to move fingers of the hand that had not been affected by the stroke, their brains showed a normal pattern of activation. That meant activity increased in the Sensorimotor Cortex on the side opposite that of the hand, and in the half of the cerebellum that lay on the same side as the hand.

But when the patients were asked to move fingers of the hand that had been affected by the stroke, a different pattern emerged. The Sensorimotor Cortex and the cerebellum were activated on both sides of the brain, rather than just one side.

Apparently, this cooperative strategy let the brain bypass the stroke-induced brain damage, which had acted like a roadblock to commands coming out of the Sensorimotor Cortex on one side of the brain. Dr. Frackowiak said.

Animal studies give hope for avoiding fetal tissue controversy

By Malcolm Ritter
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — New studies give hope that Parkinson's disease and perhaps other diseases can be treated by transplanting tissue from animals, avoiding the controversial use of human fetal tissue, researchers say.

Baboons with symptoms

resembling Huntington's disease showed improvement after getting brain implants from rats, and rats with an experimental version of Parkinson's disease responded to implants of cow tissue, scientists report.

The success of transplantation between species suggests "you can avoid the use of

human fetal tissue," said Patrick Aebischer of Brown University in Providence, R.I.

The rats did not need any medication to prevent graft rejection because the cow tissue was hidden from their immune systems in plastic capsules. The baboons were given medication to prevent rejection.

Other research suggests that inserting new genes into a patient's own tissues also may eventually provide a way around using fetal tissue, said Dr. Ole Isacson of Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Aebischer and Dr. Isacson spoke in telephone interviews before describing their transplant work in New

Orleans at the recent annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience.

"These are very important studies," said John Sladek, director of the Neuroscience Institute at the Chicago Medical School.

The baboon work shows the transplanted cells will function, while the plastic capsules approach would make it easier to implant laboratory-grown cells, which

would ultimately be medically preferable to fresh tissue, he said.

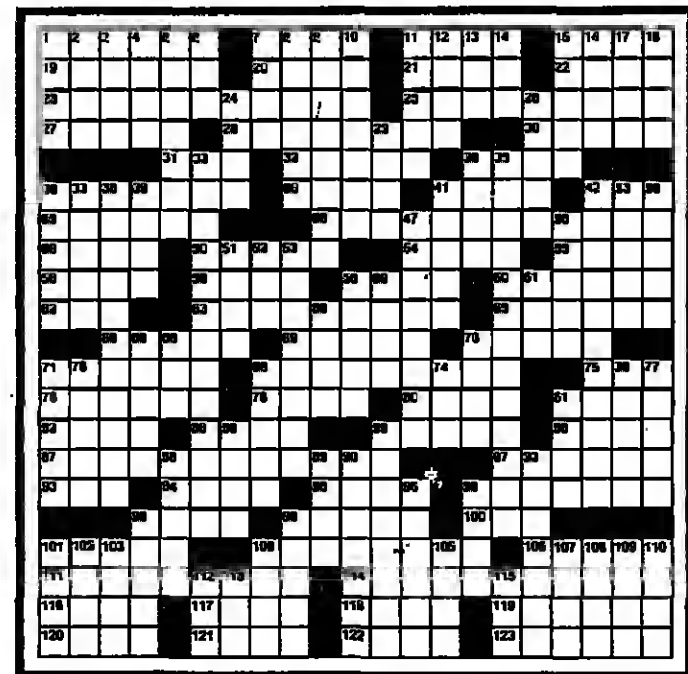
Human fetal tissue has been transplanted experimentally into people with Parkinson's disease, and scientists say it might help in treating several diseases. But the Bush administration bans federal funding of research using human fetal tissue, saying use of such tissue might encourage abortions.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

CREATURE COMFORTS
By Neera Archib

ACROSS
1 Bar for typists
7 Code word for
11 Certain student
16 Grass
18 Mink socks water
20 Daytime TV fare
21 Former
22 Wooded
23 Part of Minnie's wardrobe?
25 Airing
27 Come in
28 Factor in manufacturing
31 Cole of song
33 Cut with abandon
34 — Benedict
36 Cornish social blunder
40 Skips over water

DOWN
1 Diao
2 Hand work
3 In (mis)anthropology
4 Instance
5 Ewestering
6 Johnny of the South
7 "Unto us — is born"
8 — or
9 (old Fr. coin)
10 Extra large wrap?
11 Disagree
12 Tobacco dryer
13 List under
14 Poor grade
15 Thrown a bash
16 Oriental water dispenser
17 Light tower
18 Comprehend
20 Seaside dinner
21 Win by —

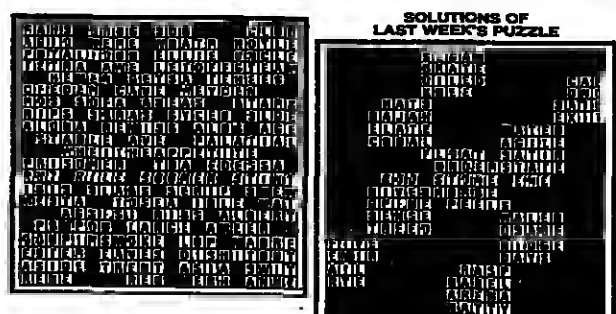


Last Week's Cryptograms

- Worldly politicians should always pursue the strictest union with their constituents.
- Cheap customer sitting to new high-class restaurant orders lowest priced items on gourmet menu.
- TV game show viewer accumulated goodly riches vicariously.
- Did you ever claim to have too much month left at the end of your money?

CRYPTOGRAMS

- OUCCZIN SLAUTPA OXZAZI BW
CASTUSZIC JHCAHTI HX PQZ
QHYNCAUJN OZAZI ILWZABHC WAPT
U JPHXPY INPZ IFXZAPTZ. —By Rita Salvato
- FIGTNGFNFO LOFTY GS OSNOINGIO OAT
CEVVWTY LR ACTS PCANF GS AEH AVAST
VAST WORTZ. —By Ed Ruddlestone
- EPGHEJ KLFMNPPML KLOETRF ONFME
XQXKHGXY WEGKMLJ AMLFZ QG XQQG
TAOLWY IXL EPTK EPTZ. —By Philip Brennan
- URERYNSQ NL T SUNMI QFF GRDNEER NM
GRATPLR QFF UTZR T GENIUS AUNDY. —By Barbara J. Rugg



Amalgam tooth-filling congress discusses the risks of mercury poisoning

By Peter Diweke

STOCKHOLM toxicologist Professor Fredrik Berglund began at the beginning in his review of case histories at the amalgam congress in Düsseldorf. Quoting medical literature from 1842 to 1990, he listed 144 cases in which toxic effects and 72 in which allergic reactions had been noted.

The organisers opted for moderation in the congress topic "Amalgam — Harmful or Harmless?" but its object all buted to be to bring about a total ban on the use of amalgam, which contains toxic mercury, for dental fillings.

Germany, the congress was told, would do best to start banning what was somewhat polemically called "toxic waste in the mouth" during the life of the present Bundestag.

True enough, it is now classified as toxic waste, and since the beginning of 1990 every dentist's chair has had to be fitted out with a special amalgam disposal unit.

Is it not a perversion of the health service for dentists to plug the holes in millions of teeth with a substance that is classified as toxic waste that needs special statutory disposal arrangements the moment it is extracted from them?

Persuasive though this argument may sound, it doesn't, by itself, account for much. Special disposal arrangements are required for all medicinal drugs.

Speakers at the Düsseldorf congress constantly sounded the alarm by reminding their audience that amalgam consists of roughly 50 per cent mercury, a highly toxic metal.

Some members of the audience may not yet have recovered from the shock when the all-clear was sounded in that the mercury is kept firmly in place as metallic compound and does not consist of

globules that find their way straight into the blood.

This being so, the view that long held sway was that no mercury was released from dental fillings. It is now an accepted fact that small amounts are released and that some mercury finds its way into the body.

This is the point at which the crucial questions arise. How much mercury does amalgam contain and what quantities can be classified as harmless? Views differ on both points.

Surveys of quantities released reach widely differing conclusions, while the debate on what might be a suitable statutory ceiling suffers from a lack of hard scientific facts on the chronic toxicity of minute doses.

Jaroslav Pleva, who works as a materials research scientist in Sweden, showed the congress the cross-section of nine-year-old silver amalgam filling as seen through an electron microscope.

The darker, surface layer contained no mercury, he said. It consisted of mercury-free corrosion products. According to his estimates the filling had released 60 microgrammes, millionths of a gramme, of mercury a day.

The filling was, in addition, simply worn down on the surface. The material aged and the compound of silver and mercury changed with time into a modification that released mercury.

One square centimetre of amalgam filling surface released between 10 and 20 microgrammes of mercury a day, he said. The average adult had a daily input of between 100 and 200 microgrammes.

Another speaker at the congress referred to a daily 29 microgrammes in the case of 12 fillings. The federal government, replying to a parliamentary question tabled by the Greens, quoted

two surveys which found two fillings to release 0.3 and 0.06 microgrammes of mercury per day.

Mercury intake from amalgam fillings could, however, amount to up to 20 microgrammes daily. In its environmental health criteria for 1991 the WHO mentions a daily intake of between 3 and 17 microgrammes of mercury vapour from amalgam fillings.

Dr. Michael Ziff from Orlando, Florida, reported a most revealing experiment in which a sheep had been given 12 fillings in its molars under an anaesthetic, the amalgam containing radioactive mercury the location of which in the animal's body was determined exactly 29 days later.

He showed the congress the findings in the form of a picture that indicated the outlines of the sheep, with black spots identifying the distribution of mercury from the fillings.

The sheep's kidneys, stomach, liver and tooth and gum tissue were heavily enriched with radioactive mercury. Its brain and glands were affected too.

A Canadian experiment demonstrated the three routes, the mercury takes. First, it evaporates, is inhaled and, in man's case, 80 per cent of the mercury finds its way from the lungs into the blood. The oral cavity was "enriched" by between 19 and 50 microgrammes of mercury per cubic metre of air inhaled.

Second, part of the mercury finds its way into the stomach and intestine. From there 10 per cent finds its way into the bloodstream. Third, mercury leaks into the tissue around the roots of the teeth and into the oral mucous membrane.

Yet to what extent do such findings endorse the demand by Munich toxicologist Dr.

Max Dauderer, a vociferous critic of amalgam, for compensation to be paid to patients who can be shown to have been poisoned.

He has brought charges against Degussa, the Frankfurt minerals refiner and supplier, and advises his patients to sue for damages if they can prove that amalgam has been to blame for mercury poisoning.

That is easier said than done. The experts find it hard to accept the existence of a clear connection. Dental associations and health insurance schemes acknowledge only the existence of allergies that amalgam triggers in a limited number of patients.

Amalgam's opponents say fillings can cause migraine, depression, tiredness, inertia, nervous complaints and poor vision. It is even said to be partly to blame for cot death and multiple sclerosis.

Dr. Dauderer claims that roughly two million Germans are amalgam victims. Dr. Ziff quoted a recent survey indicating that amalgam may partly cause Alzheimer's disease. Dental associations, health insurance schemes and the Federal Health Office say these claims are unfounded.

Amalgam may not be a problem that can be solved overnight, but an urgent case can clearly be made for developing alternative fillings, and no-one is denying that costly gold fillings are far superior.

The Federal Association of German Dentists says: cement, ceramic and synthetic fillings are not yet ready for use in molars. The public can justifiably demand the development of alternatives as an end to the health insurance schemes insistence on amalgam being used.

Amalgam is a silvery paste with an unpleasant taste — a taste of which it now seems unlikely ever to rid itself. — Die Welt.

Israel fails to turn up for talks

(Continued from page 1)

particularly the Americans, will play in reaching a settlement.

By press time last night, the Arab delegations were holding a meeting at the Grand Hotel, where the Palestinians and the Syrians are staying, to assess the situation in the aftermath of the Israeli decision not to show up and to coordinate strategy for the next round of talks, which could take place next week.

In his statement in the press at the State Department, Dr. Majali said the Arabs would not attend talks if they were called for Monday, Dec. 9, since the day commemorates the fifth anniversary of the start of the Palestinian intifada. It was still not known before the Grand Hotel meeting whether there was a coordinated position by the four Arab delegations on whether to attend meetings with the Israelis next week, and if so if all of them would boycott sessions only on Monday.

Dr. Haaan Ashrawi, the Palestinian spokesperson, said the day was a special and important one but was non-committal on whether the Palestinians would actually attend.

According to Jordanian sources, the decision not to accept restart of the talks on that day goes beyond the commemorative value of the day, since it would also contain a message for the Israelis that they cannot impose their dictates on the Arab side, whether on the question of venue or timing or agenda of the negotiations.

In a press conference Mr. Netanyahu held here one hour after the bilateral negotiations were scheduled to begin he indicated that the issue of venue remains top priority in discussions between Arabs and Israel, if and when they are held.

The news of the peace efforts in the U.S. capital played second fiddle to other issues in the American media, the resignation of White House Chief of Staff John Sununu, the release in Beirut of American hostage Terry Anderson and the rape trial of William Kennedy Smith, which was broadcast live by some televi-

sion networks.

An editorial in the Washington Post, which did not carry any reports on the talks on its front page neither yesterday or the day before that played down any differences between the Americans and the Israelis over the U.S. invitation for the Washington talks and urged that the two sides not blow up those differences.

Israeli Spokesman Benjamin Netanyahu said in an earlier press conference that he was "reassured" that the U.S. wants the Arabs to directly negotiate with Israel rather than use the administration as an intermediary. But Ms. Tutwiler said she was not aware of any change in the administration's position as a co-sponsor in the process.

"It is our view that the co-sponsors and others have played a constructive role and we have said a number of times that had the parties been able to agree among themselves on a time and venue... we would be delighted," Ms. Tutwiler said. "But that is not the case, the facts do not back that up."

Israel has rejected the opening date determined by the co-sponsors and is still insisting that the talks move to the Middle East or a location close to the region.

Ms. Tutwiler also criticised Israel's approval of a new military settlement in the occupied West Bank.

"Our policy towards settlements has not changed," "We regard settlements as an obstacle to peace. For that reason... we are particularly disturbed at this development on the eve of the resumption of bilateral talks," Ms. Tutwiler said. "As President Bush said in Madrid, 'I call on all parties to avoid unilateral acts, be they words or deeds, that would invite retaliation or, worse yet, prejudice or even threaten this process itself.'"

As the Madrid talks ended Nov. 4, the Israeli government had also inaugurated a new settlement for Soviet immigrants in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. That action was swiftly condemned by the U.S. as an obstruction to the peace process.

King commutes 6 death sentences

(Continued from page 1)

Hussein to commute the death sentences.

The organisation requested that the defendants be given the right to appeal the sentences.

It expressed concern over the sentences and said that it is keeping with its policy of opposing the death penalty that it was issuing the appeal to Jordan.

Israel says it will begin talks Monday

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Shoval denied reports that Israel would be prepared to discuss only procedural issues when it finally resumed direct talks with Syria, Lebanon, and joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegations.

"No. That's a mistake. We announced already several days ago that we are coming to talks

substance," he said, but he would not elaborate.

Mr. Shoval said the Israeli cabinet was to decide its negotiators Wednesday.

"I understand that the government will this morning take a final decision on when to seed the delegations and by what timing," he said.

NATO worried by possible threat of independent Ukraine

By Nicholas Doughty
Reuter

BRUSSELS — For NATO, Ukrainian independence from the Soviet Union could turn one of the West's worst nightmares into reality.

Alliance officials are worried that the republic could use its size and economic muscle to threaten fragile democracies in Eastern Europe, torpedo a key arms control agreement or even become a nuclear power — never mind what it could do to the already crumbling Soviet Union.

A NATO spokesman said on Monday the alliance had noted "with interest" the results of the Ukrainian vote for independence — preliminary results said around 85 per cent had voted "yes" in a referendum on Sunday — and

said the 16-nation Western alliance would continue consultations.

Unofficial reaction was much less sanguine. "We are not optimistic, but there is nothing we can do," said one NATO official. "We have to respect the results of free elections and the aspirations of these people. I just hope they do everything else the same favour."

When the three Baltic republics won independence earlier this year, things were very different. The West was hardly concerned by the emergence of three small states with no military ambitions.

But an independence Ukraine would be one of the largest countries in Europe with 52 million people, massive industrial and agricultural resources, occupying a key strategic position and a

clear rival to Russia, the union's biggest republic.

Bordering on the Black Sea, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland, the Ukraine has plans to build its own armed forces and wants joint control with Moscow over the Soviet nuclear weapons that are still on its soil.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Despite assurances from Ukrainian officials that the republic has no ambition to be a nuclear power, NATO officials say they are worried that tensions with Russia could bring a change of heart.

They are also concerned by

extremist strains of Ukrainian nationalism that have been present for decades but may now get a chance to flourish, particularly if the economic and political crisis in the Soviet Union worsens.

"If you put all these factors together, you have a real recipe for disaster," said one diplomat at NATO headquarters.

Alliance leaders, at a summit in Rome last month, approved a new strategy for the post-cold war era that referred to this kind of instability as the greatest risk now facing the West.

With the Ukraine uppermost in their minds, they also issued a declaration warning the Soviet Union and its republics to respect democracy and all international obligations if they wanted Western support.

One of those obligations in-

cludes a landmark conventional arms treaty which provides for massive cuts in the cold war arsenal of tanks, big guns and other military hardware in an area stretching from the Atlantic to the Ural.

The Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty was signed last year by the 22 nations of NATO and the now-defunct Warsaw Pact, but has not yet been implemented. It is widely seen as the cornerstone of post-cold war disarmament.

The treaty assigns limits for military equipment to the Soviet Union and other countries, but NATO sources say the Ukraine will now almost certainly want its own share of the overall Soviet limit.

The questions is how much and whether Moscow will agree.

What is even more worrying is that the CFE Treaty, negotiated when the Soviet Union was still a coherent entity, splits the Ukraine into two military districts.

If the Ukraine accepted the treaty as it was signed, it would have to accept limits on deployment and movement of forces within its own borders. NATO officials say they think such acceptance is unlikely.

"The problem then is that the whole treaty could unravel and, with it, the basis of trust that has given us a new age of disarmament," said one official.

"We all hope things will turn out right. But given the mood of intense pessimism right now about developments in the Soviet Union, there are a lot of worried people here."

Europe's struggles over HDTV eclipsed by new U.S. technology

By Catherine Arnst
Reuter

LONDON — As Europe wrangles over how to handle High Definition Television (HDTV) — hailed as the next-generation television — new digital technology championed by the United States is already threatening to usurp it.

At stake, analysts and industrialists agree, is nothing less than the future of the consumer electronics industry.

Last month, the European Community's policy on HDTV underwent another in a long series of gyrations as commissioners and European Parliament members struggled to accommodate the conflicting demands of television manufacturers and broadcasters.

But any compromise at this point may be meaningless, industry analysts say, in the light of an announcement made earlier in November by Zenith Electronics

Corp and American Telephone and Telegraph Corp of the United States.

The two companies said they had received final approval from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to test a jointly developed all-digital television system which will deliver the same cinema-quality pictures promised by HDTV plus a wide range of other services — at a much lower cost.

The two firms said their technology would send interference-free signals to a significantly larger geographic area than is possible through either conventional broadcasts or any proposed HDTV system.

The Zenith-ATT system will be tested in January and is one of four digital technologies under consideration by the FCC, with a choice to be made in 1993.

A successful digital system would most likely sound the death-knell for European HDTV and the more advanced Japanese

system, both of which are satellite-delivered and based on a national standard.

A digital signal could be transmitted by both satellite and land-based transmitting towers and could be converted easily to work with any national system. That would get round the international patchwork of TV standards that now prevents one country's sets from receiving broadcasts from another.

This caused European broadcasters to complain to the European Parliament about efforts to force them to move to an interim satellite-delivered HDTV standard called MAC, developed by the Dutch group Philips electronics NV and Thomson SA of France.

"Many experts and industry observers believe that new technological developments, such as digital TV, may soon supersede MAC," the Association of Commercial Television in Europe (ACT) said in a statement.

"Considerable discussion is still required to ensure that Europe chooses the most appropriate HDTV standard, taking into account the needs of both terrestrial and satellite broadcasters."

The stakes involved are phenomenal.

By bringing into the home the clarity and big-screen quality of the cinema, HDTV has long promised to be the next major consumer electronics product — and the computer chips that drive the technology will have a wide range of other uses.

Market estimates for HDTV demand range as high as \$100 billion a year in 10 to 15 years. That is why manufacturers and politicians in Japan, Europe and the United States are all eager to develop a technology and standards that will determine the direction of HDTV worldwide.

Both Japan and Europe have concentrated on developing satellite-delivered HDTV systems based on analogue technology,

which uses electrical impulses to represent pieces of information.

Any TV set designed to work with the Japanese or European system will not work with any other, and the HDTV signal could not be received by existing TV sets.

A digital system would transmit information — video and sound — as a series of ones and zeros, the same language used by computers.

The digital code could be converted easily into other standards, allowing it to cut across all standard barriers.

But digital-based HDTV systems are not expected for another 10 years or so, while Japan demonstrated a working version of its analogue HDTV system five years ago and has started broadcasting with the system for eight hours a day.

European electronic companies argue that Europe must support the analogue MAC standard if it wants to catch up with Japan.

"We believe that the MAC standards will last well into the next century," said the European Association of Consumer Electronics Manufacturers.

The industry group argues that waiting for a digital system would leave the HDTV field wide open for Japanese domination.

Under the EC's latest compromise, to be considered by the community's telecommunications council on December 5, the interim MAC standard must be used for broadcasts in a wide-screen HDTV format.

Other programming could continue to use the existing Pal or Secam standards but EC subsidies would be offered as an incentive for switching to D2-MAC.

It also changed the period during which the requirement would be in effect from 10 to five years, recognising that digital technology might supersede the MAC standard in 10 years.

Butchering a language!

By Ramadan Abdul Kader

IF you happen to know Arabic and are fond of old Egyptian films, you will be really struck by the elevated language uttered by their actors. Many youngsters today feel confused by the well-articulated lines spoken by the Egyptian performers in the productions of the forties and fifties. The trouble actually lies not with the films but with the youngsters who find the language incomprehensible. Today's language of the media and the movies have obviously degenerated into decadence and vulgarity.

Worse, Arabic language teachers know just a smattering of the syntax of this language. They are mainly non-specialists. With schools facing an acute shortage of instructors of the Arabic language, the Education Ministry has recently shifted to recruiting teachers who are graduates of faculties which have

nothing to do with this language. Arabic is Egypt's first language and it has been held in reverence over the past 16 centuries for being the language in which the Koran, the Muslims' holy book, was revealed. As the local labour market is steadily shrinking, while Egyptian universities are annually churning out thousands of graduates, many youths unwillingly take the job of Arabic teacher. But there is an Arabic saying which goes: "He who has nothing cannot give anything," and this saying surely applies to the case of the "fake" Arabic language instructors.

In the bygone days the theatre and movies were seen as good media for polishing one's Arabic members of the family used to go to the "Rameses Theatre," for instance, to enjoy Youssef Wahbi's eloquence in his mostly Egyptianised plays. In the same vein, the late actor Zaki Rostom used to rivet the attention of the

audience on him with his classical articulation of language in his movies. No wonder, today's parents feel sorry for the inability of their children to construct a correct Arabic sentence. They know quite well that unlike their unlucky children they were taught Arabic by competent teachers who approached this rich and evocative language tenderly and did not waste in their encouragement of pupils to read the Arabic classics and ones in translation.

The picture today is quite discouraging. Most theatrical and movie productions find their appeal in packing in the greatest possible number of blue jokes and racy language. The dialogue in most cases is from the gutter. Worse still, the Arabic teacher has become a butt of ridicule in today's dramas. He is depicted in a manner which only triggers laughter. He is shown in shabby

clothes and with a revolting appearance. As time has passed, this picture has taken root in school children's minds, the rising generation has come to dislike the Arabic language and even to look down upon whoever tries to speak it. This reversal has given rise to gibberish terms which have sneaked into the Egyptian vernacular. They have found permanent slots and are being taken up in today's soap operas, movies and plays.

It is not also unnoticeable to find a TV announcer unable to match an Arabic-speaking guest.

Fearing the guest will upstage him, the announcer babbles and burls views which pale in glamour and articulation to those of his guest! May one hope that the bad days, on which the Arabic language is falling, will prompt the revival of the "Kutab"? Every village and district os-

ed to have "Kutab" whose main assignment was to teach children verses from the Koran and fundamentals of arithmetics. Many of Egypt's thinkers and illustrious writers owe a debt to this "Kutab." With its extinction, the Arabic language has proved

to be the main loser. TV movies and theatres are evident manifestations. They have consequently taken their toll on the values of the rising generation, whose members find it normal to crack the foulest jokes at each other — The Egyptian Gazette.

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Chang knocked out in 1st round of EC tennis tournament

ANTWERP, Belgium (R) — American Michael Chang suffered a 6-4 2-6 6-4 defeat by Peruvian Jaime Yzaga in the first round of the injury-hit European Community Tennis Championship Tuesday.

In other first round action, Swede Jonas Svensson, called up to replace injured Yugoslav title holder Goran Ivanisevic, outplayed Spaniard Emilio Sanchez 6-2 4-6 6-4.

Top seed Stefan Edberg earlier withdrew with knee and arm problems and is also doubtful for next week's Grand Slam Cup.

World number one Edberg, troubled by a serious case of tendonitis since October, resumed training only four days ago after a three-week absence from the court.

The Swede, who had a first-round bye and was due to play American Aaron Krickstein Thursday, will be replaced by American Patrick McEnroe, who

lost in the qualifiers.

Organisers confirmed French Davis Cup hero Guy Forget would take part in the event after rumours circulated that he was about to pull out.

Chang blamed his defeat on taking too much time off after winning a tournament in Birmingham, England, in early November.

"I came here a bit sluggish," he said. "I made a little too many errors. I was too patient. I should have been a little more aggressive, mix it up a little more," Chang said.

Swede Svensson found himself 4-1 down in the final set against Sanchez — who started a one-year military service in October — but fought back to secure a second round match with American Pete Sampras.

"I should have served a bit better," said clay-court specialist Sanchez, who insisted it was his

best match ever on hard court. Frenchman Henri Leconte, fresh from his Davis Cup heroics, continued his winning ways, beating friend and training partner Marc Rosset of Switzerland 6-1 6-4.

"He's a dangerous player. I could not let him get into his stride," Leconte said of the towering Rosset who possesses a booming serve.

Leconte indicated that — unlike team mate Guy Forget — he had been spared most of the media fanfare after France's shock Davis Cup win over the United States.

"There are not that many journalists who have my phone number in Geneva," he said.

Once number five in the world, Leconte has nose-dived in the rankings after health problems. But he said he would try hard to reach the top 20 next year, and "maybe the top 10."



Michael Chang

FIFA draws back from World Cup revolution

NEW YORK (R) — Plans for sweeping changes to soccer's World Cup after widespread criticism of the 1990 tournament in Italy have been virtually abandoned, a leading official said.

International Football Federation (FIFA) General Secretary Sepp Blatter told Reuters in an interview it was unlikely there would be major changes in the rules of the game or in the often-debated format of the 24-team finals.

Suggestions for making the game more attractive and less defensive, including enlarging the goal and finding an alternative to the controversial penalty shoot-

outs, have all been dropped, he said.

When the draw is made Sunday for the qualifying competition of the 1994 finals to be staged in the United States, tradition will beat revolution hands down, although younger, fitter referees are on the way.

FIFA itself was highly critical of the 1990 finals which produced the lowest average of goals per game ever. The body launched studies to find a way to make the game more appealing, with a particular eye on the virtually untapped but demanding American market.

But Mr. Blatter said FIFA real-

ised there was no point tampering with the rules of the sport. "We need a better application of the laws of the game, that's all," he said.

"The laws are practically perfect, though perfection doesn't exist, of course. What we have to do is help referees to be better trained and in better physical shape."

"It is they who can stop destructive play and protect creative players."

After the dull finals in Italy, FIFA set up a working party, including noted soccer figures such as French national team boss

Michel Platini and German striker Rudi Voller, to look at ways of increasing the sport's appeal.

Mr. Blatter said it would report next year with its only main recommendations on the laws expected to be a ban on back passes to the goalkeeper and the outlawing of tackles from behind. Both changes could be introduced next season.

He said goalkeepers would be treated as field players and not be allowed to pick up the ball after a back pass, preventing them from time-wasting.

"FIFA studies have shown that goalkeepers and referees are the game's biggest time-wasters," he said.

He said FIFA had found older and less fit referees allowed time to be lost to give themselves a better chance to catch their breath.

FIFA wanted professional referees and would bring down the maximum age limit from 47 to 45 for the U.S. finals and then to 42 at a future date.

For the final tournament, FIFA had found no better alternative to penalty shootouts to decide drawn matches, he said. Proposals that the final should be replayed if drawn had also been discarded.

That would involve extending the month-long competition and would produce no guarantee that a second match would not also result in a tie, Mr. Blatter added.

He said the 24-team format with 16 teams going through from group matches to a second round knockout was the best available.

In Sunday's draw, Europe will have its allocation of places reduced by one to 12 to allow a third African country an automatic place.

Helmick resigns from IOC

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (R) — Robert Helmick of the U.S. resigned Wednesday from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) over disclosures of unethical conduct, Olympic sources said.

"I hear he has done the right thing," one source said.

The sources said Mr. Helmick, a member of the Executive Board, had resigned from the IOC in a letter to IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch.

Mr. Helmick submitted his letter to Mr. Samaranch just hours before the IOC executive board met to decide whether he should be ousted.

The 54-year-old Iowa lawyer resigned as president of the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) in September after disclosures that he was paid some \$270,000 in legal and consulting fees by organizations linked to the Olympic Movement.

Mr. Helmick told Samaranch: "After much thought and reflection I have determined that I desire to take the initiative to resign my position as a member of the International Olympic Committee."

"I am taking this action because I believe it is the decent thing to do and because it serves the best interest of the IOC and the United States Olympic Movement by returning the focus to the programme for athletes."

Mr. Helmick had come under heavy pressure over the past two days to resign but was believed not to have taken the decision until the early hours of Wednesday.

The Executive Board had been scheduled to hear the report of an IOC investigation into Mr. Helmick's business dealings by a three-man commission compris-

ing Keba Mbaye, a former judge at the International Court of Justice, and two Swiss lawyers, Marc Holder and Francois Carrard, the IOC director general.

IOC sources said the three men had tried to persuade Mr. Helmick to resign during a series of meetings over the past 48 hours.

Mr. Helmick, who joined the IOC in 1985 and became an executive board member in 1989, told Mr. Samaranch:

Peterborough eliminates Liverpool

LONDON (R) — Liverpool suffered the indignity of being knocked out of the Football League Cup by third division Peterborough Tuesday.

A blunder by Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobelaar allowed winger Gary Kimble to score the decisive goal in Peterborough's stunning 1-0 fourth round home victory, putting them in the quarterfinals for the first time in 26 years.

Liverpool's first ever defeat in the competition by a third or fourth division club hanged on Grobelaar's 19th minute error. He raced way out of goal for a cross by Noel Luke but only managed to push the ball straight to Kimble, who drove it into an empty net.

Peterborough, already the conquerors of first division Wimbledon and division two Newcastle in previous rounds, could have won by a bigger margin with better finishing.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY DECEMBER 6, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Delays, obstacles and limitations in your path of practical accomplishments move out of your way today as the Moon conjuncts Mercury but there isn't any other strong aspect to help you.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get out and shop for those articles and appliances that can fill your larger and make your tasks easier to do and keep appointments with interesting personalities.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Whatever you think, can add to your financial security and bring you more of this world's goods is fine so put on your practical thinking cap.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Now you are the one who can save others so think out the argument you wish to use to bring them to the line of reasoning, call and see them and give it.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have a restless urge to get at all of those private matters you need to look into so you can gain understanding where you stand.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Whatever you like of a social nature should be excellent for you now so get out with the groups or the persons you like and have a pleasant time.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Your interest in the lighter side of life should wait the results of a conference you can now have with a very important bigwig who has the answers you need.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is your time to make certain you make some new con-

tacts with very interesting and up and coming persons who have much information you can use.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Whatever you now have in mind is fine for bringing into effect the various and sundry credit matters that can place you on a better footing.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) There are a number of clever persons who have it in their power to cement some ties with you that are very much to the benefit of everyone.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A great day for you to use all that angle-working quality that is so much a part of your nature and character and you can certainly produce fine results.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Now you find that you are the one who does have the chance to thoroughly enjoy yourself at some entertainment or amusement that you like.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You need to look at what is happening beneath your own roof if you are to get the answers that can be most helpful to you and bring you more concord at home.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she has every sort of chance to really make it in a big way or to become a drifter that never does anything for themselves or anyone else. A great deal depends on what transpires in early formative years when it is of upmost importance that this progeny finishes the projects that they start.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY DECEMBER 5, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The poorly expected New Moon in Sagittarius will bring conflicts out in the open again but don't try to resolve them today. Just listen quietly to what others feel are the facts and withhold comment.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You are able to discuss with an individual or a group of experienced persons what you can do to have these days far more abundant than before.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Whatever brings you joy and happiness in your social relations with those you like is excellent now so discuss with them what you like.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You are able to find the many behind the scenes data you need to be sure to investigate the various sources that can release these essential details.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You are able to indicate to those about what you want of a personal and social nature so decide early what you want and then make your wishes known.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Whatever of a worldly nature makes you feel important and brings you in contact with those who are in positions of authority is excellent.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) There are a number of strange but fascinating new interests that are now available to you but must be in the attitude of acceptance if they are to benefit you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Getting into every single item of any obligation is good for you are able to get a clear picture of

what you can do in order to gain the good will of your own contacts.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You are able to find the many reasons why any partnerships have not been working as you would like but you have to make a real effort.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your enjoyment of the projects you do opens many new doors so you will have plenty of tasks of the kind that you like to do in the next days.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) If you want to gain the good will of those of whom you are fond it is necessary that you do something that will please and amuse them so.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have some interesting condition at your home that you don't know just how to handle but think it over for although a challenge it is also an opportunity.

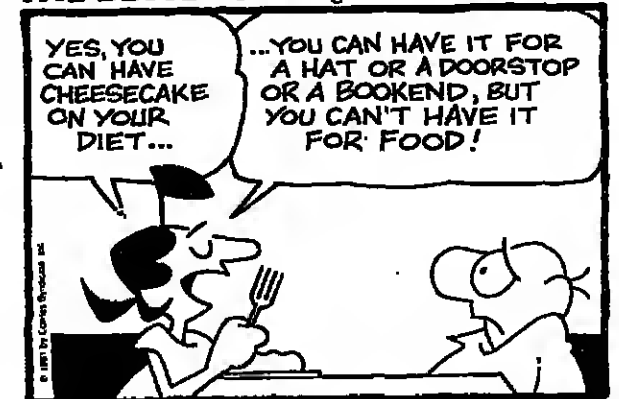
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is your moment to show you are willing to go along with a plan of your allies that means you have to do some dull and drab project but that is beneficial.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she has every sort of ability along practical lines and should be given business and finance training from early age. Teaching this child to respect the rights and property of others along with a clearly defined ethical and moral value code are essential factors for their success.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ICCOL

NITHK

UNPOWT

MIRTHE

Answer: ICOL HE'S

Yesterday's Jumbles: ADAPT COUGH GOLFER ENTAIL

Answer: Begins at the bottom and works up—A GIRL

THAT SHADY CHARACTER IS WORTHLESS NO MATTER HOW

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answers Monday

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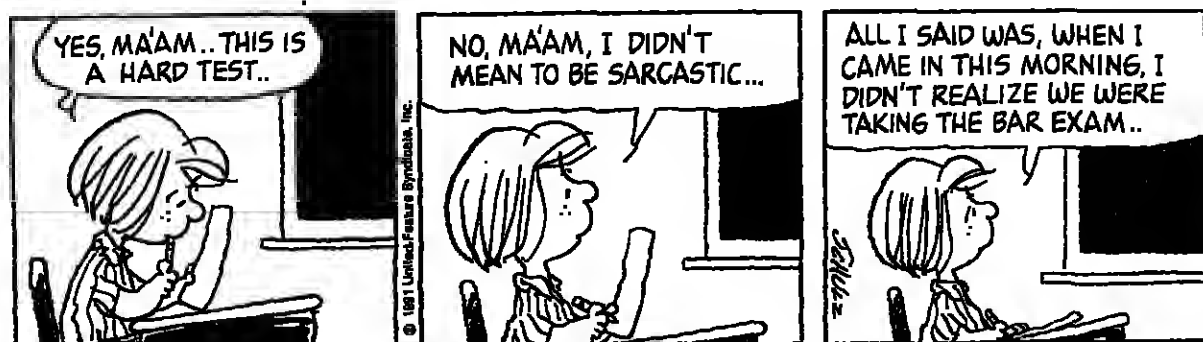
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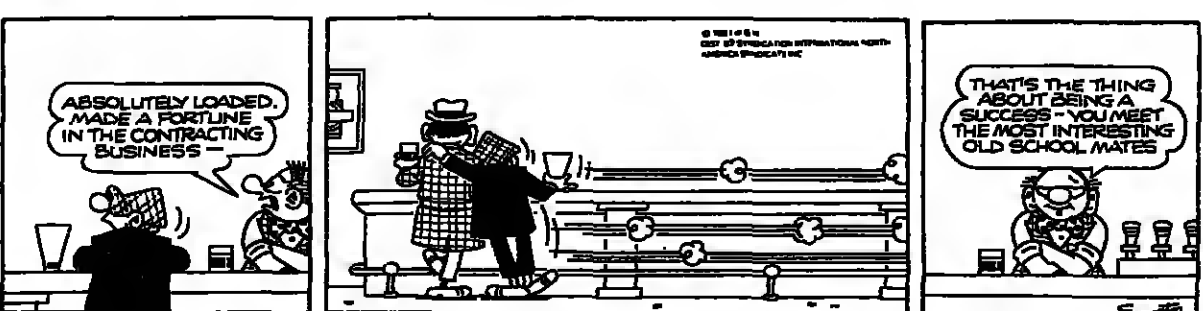
Answers Monday

Answers Monday

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



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WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH
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♥ K Q 5

♦ A K J 3

♣ 2

WEST

♠ J 5 3

♥ 8 7 3 2

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Deutsche Mark	1.6080	1.6054
Swiss Franc	1.4230	1.4215
French Franc	5.5000	5.4648
Japanese Yen	129.25	129.25
European Currency Unit	1.2660	1.2680

30-Day Forward Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.16	4.67	4.66	4.67
Sterling Pound	10.45	10.56	10.62	10.62
Deutsche Mark	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.43
Swiss Franc	8.12	8.15	8.00	7.67
French Franc	9.67	9.81	9.71	9.68
Japanese Yen	6.16	6.06	5.78	5.56
European Currency Unit	10.37	10.37	10.37	10.25

Gold and Silver Prices

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	363.40	6.90	Silver	4.035	0.069

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

4/12/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6600	0.6620
Sterling Pound	1.2061	1.2121
Deutsche Mark	0.4227	0.4246
Swiss Franc	0.4760	0.4804
French Franc	0.1238	0.1244
Japanese Yen	0.5256	0.5262
Dutch Guilder	0.3750	0.3769
Swedish Krona	0.1153	0.1159
Italian Lira	0.0560	0.0563
Belgian Franc	0.02050	0.02060

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7740	1.7830
Lebanese Lira	0.0771	0.0777
Saudi Riyal	0.1810	0.1816
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—
Qatari Riyal	0.1642	0.1650
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2170
Omani Riyal	1.7400	1.7490
UAE Dirham	0.1842	0.1850
Greek Drachma	0.3675	0.3765
Cypriot Pound	1.4800	1.5000

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	2/12/1991 Close	3/12/1991 Close
All-Share	125.60	125.72
Banking Sector	105.17	105.24
Insurance Sector	127.11	126.64
Industry Sector	155.75	155.88
Services Sector	140.66	141.40

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.7775/85	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1348/53	Canadian dollar
	1.6050/60	Deutsche marks
	1.8085/95	Dutch guilders
	1.4210/20	Swiss francs
	33.04/07	Belgian francs
	5.4875/25	French francs
	1212/1213	Italian lire
	129.25/35	Japanese yen
	5.8830/80	Swedish crowns
	6.3250/3300	Norwegian crowns
	6.2450/2500	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	365.60/366.10	U.S. dollars

Armenia tries to squeeze into Gulf Arab markets

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates (R) — The Soviet republic of Armenia is trying to sell goods to oil-rich Arab states for the first time, to boost its bid for political and economic independence.

Armenian firms, mostly joint ventures with neighboring Iran, are displaying products from shoes to machine parts at a trade fair in Sharjah, one of the seven sheikhdoms which make up the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"We have achieved political independence but we know that independence will be an utopia if we do not have a strong economy," Ashot Sarkissian, chairman of the Armenian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry said in an interview.

He said the landlocked Caucasus state of 3.5 million people, plans to boost light industries, mineral and gold exports and promote tourism in order to be self-sufficient.

The breakaway republic is feeling its way in world markets to sell its goods alone, a stark change from the era of the Soviet Union, when Moscow marketed everything.

Mr. Sarkissian said Armenia exports over 100 raw and processed items to 40 countries and wants to push these exports to Gulf states.

"We want to get acquainted with the markets of the Arab countries and establish long-term relations with businessmen," Mr. Sarkissian said.

Apart from the Sharjah fair, Mr. Sarkissian said Armenia has taken part in trade shows in Iran, Syria, Turkey, France and Italy in 1991 to promote its exports.

Armenian displays at the Sharjah Expo Centre remained empty in the first couple of days of the trade fair, which will run until Dec. 9, as the goods were delayed passing through customs in Turkey, an Expo Centre official said.

The problem clearly demonstrated one of the principal problems which haunt Armenia's drive for integration with the rest of the world: Lack of established road links.

Armenia, surrounded by Iran and Turkey and the fellow Soviet republics of Azerbaijan and Georgia, is trying to construct roads through Turkey and Georgia to the Black Sea ports and to Iran, Sarkissian said.

The other major problem blocking an Armenian economic development is scarcity of energy, mainly caused by an Azerbaijan blockade in a political rift between the republics over the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave.

Soviet economic bank starts currency trading at market rate

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs (Vneshekonbank) Tuesday began trading hard currency at free market tourist rates, offering 90 roubles to the dollar.

The bank, which operates exchange offices for tourists at several hotels, last week suspended payments of hard currency to Soviet citizens travelling abroad and to state-funded organizations, also known as "budget organizations."

TASS news agency said it had resumed sales of currency to citizens but payments to the budget organizations remained suspended.

It quoted the deputy head of Vneshekonbank, Valery Lyulchev, as saying the bank would buy the dollar for 90 roubles and sell for 99 roubles. "A bank spokesman confirmed the rates."

The Soviet state bank, Gosbank, Friday lifted the fixed tourist exchange rate and Soviet banks were free from Monday to set their own rates for buying hard currency from tourists and selling it to Soviet citizens travelling abroad.

The decision was dictated by Gosbank's inability to maintain the rate of 47 to the dollar as the rouble steadily lost its value at currency auctions and on the black market.

Several commercial banks authorized to deal in hard currency grabbed the opportunity Monday to set their rates at between 80 and 100 roubles to the dollar.

Market rates were also established for other currencies, for example the British pound was being bought for between 140 and 180 roubles and the German mark for between 50 and 85 roubles.

Restrictions remained on the purchase of hard currency.

Foreigners can only exchange roubles when they leave the Soviet Union and must show currency declarations as proof that they are not taking out of the country more foreign exchange than they brought in.

Soviet citizens travelling abroad can receive a maximum of \$200 on presentation of valid travel documents.

Meanwhile, experts said that

U.S. benefited from growing foreign capital

WASHINGTON (AP) — The growing investment in the United States by foreigners apparently has been beneficial with little negative effect on U.S. economy, the Commerce Department has said.

"U.S. affiliates of foreign firms seem to have goals similar to U.S. residents and companies, and in fact, on average tend to spend more on plant and equipment, research and development and worker compensation than U.S. firms generally," Undersecretary Michael Darby told Congress Joint Economic Committee.

On balance, Mr. Darby said, "the United States has greatly benefited from the large inflow of capital from abroad during the 1980s."

Without foreign capital, total investment in the United States would have been somewhat lower, resulting in reduced economic growth during the decade, he said.

Foreign-owned affiliates in the United States doubled their share of the U.S. economy between 1977 and 1981 and held a steady four per cent share through the rest of the 1980s, Mr. Darby said.

"Any potential costs of foreign direct investment to the U.S. economy so far appear to be minimal," he said. Mr. Darby noted that the United States remains the nation with the largest investment in foreign countries, and cautioned against trying to restrain investors from abroad.

EC clinches draft deal on single currency by 1999 at latest

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community (EC) leaders will be asked next week to bless an agreement drafted by their finance ministers that virtually ensures a single European currency will be floated before the end of the decade.

The landmark accord means that German marks, French francs and other currencies will be fused into one, saving businesses and tourists billions of dollars a year in currency transaction costs and vastly simplifying economic life in the community.

"It is now likely that at the latest on Jan. 1, 1999, we will have a single currency," Flemish Minister of Economic Affairs, said.

"This is a very great achievement," he told a late-night news conference after finance ministers wrapped up three days of tortuous bargaining over the details of a treaty on economic and monetary union (EMU).

The deal will now be submitted to a summit of EC leaders next Monday and Tuesday in the Dutch city of Maastricht. It would then have to be ratified by the 12 EC parliaments.

The biggest problem still to be settled is Britain's insistence that it be exempted from a single currency.

Heads of government must also confirm the exact procedures for moving to the final stage of EMU and answer demands from poorer southern states for a greater transfer of EC funds from the

richer north.

And Germany is insisting it will not sacrifice its strong national currency, the mark, on the altar of EMU unless the EC agrees to move towards a common foreign and security policy.

Britain has reservations on this aspect of a new union treaty, too, but officials were confident that an accord was within their grasp.

"We can be satisfied with the progress made," said Dutch Finance Minister Wim Kok, who chaired the EMU talks. "We have finished almost all the problems."

The drive to EMU had already built up a powerful head of steam as politicians saw the creation of a single currency as a natural step to crown the abolition by 1993 of the remaining barriers to the free movement of goods and capital in the EC.

But before the latest talks there was a nagging doubt whether EMU would happen because ministers were insisting that unanimous agreement would be needed to launch a single currency.

In Tuesday's talks, ministers dramatically lowered this hurdle by broadly backing a new French initiative designed to push through monetary union in the event one or two countries unexpectedly try to block their partners from going ahead.

The plan, laid out by Finance Minister Pierre Berégovoy, confirms that the earliest a decision on monetary union could be made is 1996 and that unanimous

approval would be needed.

If the initial deliberations are inconclusive, a second vote would be taken within two years, at the end of 1998, at which the consensus requirement would no longer apply.

Instead, a simple majority of states could vote to lock their exchange rates and fuse their currencies under the umbrella of a new European central bank.

Moreover, at that point governments could agree to embark on the final stage of EMU even if only a few countries have complied with the strict inflation and budget-deficit standards laid down in the treaty.

These criteria, inserted mainly at the behest of Germany, are designed to ensure the inflationary pressures do not cause the new union to burst at the seams.

Thus, in theory, as few as two or three countries could usher in the single currency, Mr. Kok said.

"In principle it would be possible, according to what we agreed today, that on the basis of a majority decision by the European Council... even a smaller number of countries than seven could enter the third state," he said.

In practice, however, ministers are hoping that the fear of being left behind in the slow lane to EMU will spur economically weak countries to cut their budget deficits and reduce inflation so they can be fit for a single currency in 1996 or 1998.

U.S. shifts the way it measures economy

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. government will change the way it reports the broadest measure of U.S. economic activity to focus more narrowly on activity that takes place within its borders, officials have said.

The change is likely to make the recession appear deeper than previously believed, one economist said.

But economists think the new standard will more accurately reflect the state of the U.S. economy and will be more useful for making comparisons with other countries.

Beginning with the release of revised third-quarter economic figures, the Commerce Department will focus on gross domestic product (GDP), which measures goods and services produced in the country, rather than on the more familiar gross national product (GNP).

The GDP figure leaves out any profit earned by overseas subsidiaries of U.S. companies or by Americans working abroad. Most countries already use GDP.

Maxwell family grasp on empire weakens

LONDON (R) — Finding a "white knight" with at least \$400 million (\$710 million) to spare may be the last hope for the Maxwell family as it struggles to save its crumbling empire.

But some bankers to the family were already pressing hard Wednesday for receivers to be appointed, believing a speedy cash injection from a brave investor is highly unlikely.

"You'd have to be mad to put money into that situation now," one share analyst said.

Even if a rescuer comes forward, the Maxwell family seems certain to lose control of its businesses.

Bankers said the discovery of \$300 million (\$533 million) of secret loans from public to private Maxwell interests, and another \$300 million borrowed pension funds by family companies, threatens to torpedo any hope of a bail-out.

The gathering crisis in the empire since Robert Maxwell died last month forced his sons Kevin and Ian to quit the boards of the family's public companies, Maxwell Communication Corp. PLC and Mirror Group Newspapers PLC, on Tuesday.

Bankers said Kevin Maxwell had told them talks with a potential investor were under way and could be concluded by Friday, when banks are due to meet to decide whether to continue supporting the private Maxwell companies.

But one banker with exposure to the private businesses is convinced the family has no chance of hanging on to the public companies.

He was also pessimistic about the prospect of a last-minute rescue. "Time is very short and it's a lot of money," he said.

There was still enormous confusion about the links between the public and private companies. "It's chaotic," he said.

The private companies were probably insolvent and likely to go into administration, which would give them legal protection from creditors and put control into the hands of court-appointed officials.

Analysts said banks would want a rushed sale, but would want assets to be gradually sold off.

"I think the family seems certain to lose control (of its businesses)," said analyst Colin Tennant at broker UBS Phillips and Drew.

Mirror Group Newspapers, the family's best asset, is the main prize for potential buyers.

"If somebody comes forward and wants Mirror Group, there's no way the banks would refuse now," said one.

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Army coup possible in Soviet Union — St. Petersburg mayor

PARIS (R) — A military coup in the Soviet Union is now a real possibility and this time it will succeed, St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoly Sobchak said in an interview published Wednesday.

"For me a military coup cannot be ruled out. And this time, if it happens, it will receive the support of the people," Mr. Sobchak told the Paris daily Le Figaro.

The outspoken mayor said last August's coup attempt against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev failed because it was masterminded by unpopular Communists.

"But a military dictatorship whose declared goal is simply to restore order has a chance of success," he said.

Mr. Sobchak predicted that the crumbling Soviet empire could sink into deeper chaos if its leaders find no way to order relations among the independent-minded republics.

"Such chaos, in turn, will create the need (for the military) to put things in order," he added.

Mr. Sobchak's interview was published a day after Mr. Gorbachev, his political future thrown into question by a massive Ukrainian vote of independence, said the Soviet Union could collapse into war if republics did not unite in a confederation.

In an interview with the Soviet weekly Literaturny, Gazeta, Mr. Gorbachev also spoke of the possibility of another military coup, like that which removed him from office for three days in August.

Mr. Sobchak said a Yugoslav-type conflict in the Soviet Union could be catastrophic because of the presence of nuclear weapons in four republics — Byelorussia, Russia, Kazakhstan and the Ukraine.

The powerful Russian Federation and the Ukraine, both harbouring nuclear arsenals, could clash over territory, Mr. Sobchak said.

"If the Ukraine accepts to be part of a new confederal type of economic community then the frontier issue will not arise."

"On the other hand the situation will be totally different if the Ukraine secedes and refuses to join in a new political pact. In that case Russia will immediately put up its territorial claim," the mayor said.

Russia claims part of the Ukraine, where Russians represent a sizeable minority among Ukraine's 52 million inhabitants. "It is difficult to predict how the situation will evolve. The prospect is particularly frightening given the presence of nuclear arms on the territory of one or the other of the republics," said Mr. Sobchak, who has advocated continued central control of the nuclear weapons.

Mr. Gorbachev, facing political eclipse, has issued a desperate plea for the remaining Soviet republics to sign a political treaty with the Kremlin or face poverty and collapse.

Mr. Gorbachev, looking weary and nervous, appeared on television Tuesday two days after the Ukraine voted nine to one to endorse independence from Moscow, virtually torpedoing his plan for a union of sovereign states.

But he failed to make a single direct reference to the republic — the second largest in the Soviet Union and a major industrial and farm base.

Mr. Gorbachev, his hands folded nervously, told viewers those promoting secession had deceived the people.

"Disintegration will bring misfortune to millions of our citizens," he said. "There is now speculation that separation will bring benefits, but this will be short-lived."

He said republics, including President Boris Yeltsin's vast Russian Federation, could not overcome the country's economic crisis on their own and had to

pool their efforts within the union treaty, which took a year to prepare.

"Now, without delay we must sign the union treaty. And it must go into effect as soon as possible," Mr. Gorbachev said.

"My position is unequivocal. I am for a new union of sovereign states... we can no longer delay. Losing time could be catastrophic. Political manoeuvring is unacceptable."

Meanwhile, the United States told its NATO allies Tuesday that breakthrough Soviet republics like the Ukraine must honour international commitments if they wanted diplomatic recognition from the West.

Ambassadors and senior officials from the 16 nations of the Western alliance discussed Sunday's independence vote in the Ukraine and the break-up of NATO's former war enemy at a special meeting in Brussels.

Robert Zoellick, a senior aide to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, and U.S. Under Secretary for Security Assistance Reginald Bartholomew briefed allies on Washington's view.

"They made very clear that we should act together in dealing with relations with the Soviet republics and that all obligations must be respected if independent republics wish to be recognised by the West," said one NATO source.

These included debt, Soviet arms control commitments, tight control of nuclear weapons, respect for human rights, borders and minorities.

Canada is so far the only North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) member which has said it will recognise the Ukraine, the most powerful Soviet republic after Russia. But Washington says it is moving towards recognition.

Mr. Bartholomew, who was recently in the Soviet Union, told the meeting he had received some

encouraging assurances that all international obligations would be met.

"The problem we discussed was how we could help the Soviet Union and the republics, while at the same time making sure that it lives up to all its commitments," said another NATO source.

Hungary will establish diplomatic links with the Ukraine and Russia with immediate effect, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday in Budapest.

"The Foreign Ministry instructed its representative in Moscow and Kiev to sign a protocol on establishing diplomatic links today," spokesman Janos Herman said.

Mr. Herman said the Hungarian government had regarded the Russian Federation and the Ukraine — the Soviet Union's two largest republics — as sovereign states for some time.

Hungary has an embassy in Moscow taking care of its links with the Soviet Union and a consulate in the Ukrainian capital, Kiev.

Mr. Herman said Hungary had followed Poland and Canada in recognising Ukraine. Russia was also recognised by its traditional ally Bulgaria.

"What made Hungary special was that it recognised the two republics simultaneously," Mr. Herman said.

In Bucharest, the Romanian Foreign Ministry also said it was ready to recognise the independence of Ukraine and establish diplomatic relations.

"Romania will recognise the independence of the Ukraine as it did with other (Soviet) republics and we are looking forward to establishing diplomatic relations as soon as possible," ministry spokesman Traian Chebeleu said.

In a statement released in Rome, the head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church urged the international community to recognise an independent Ukraine.

Mandela calls for continued sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Nelson Mandela urged the United Nations Tuesday to keep up economic sanctions against South Africa until apartheid is wiped out and pledged a future state free of prejudice.

In his address to the U.N. General Assembly and at a wide-ranging news conference afterwards, the African National Congress (ANC) president said sanctions should be lifted gradually and in phases.

"Precisely because we have not yet reached the goal of liberation towards which all of us have striven, we believe that there is need for continued international pressure to encourage speedy movement forward towards ending the system of apartheid," he said.

Mr. Mandela's three phases are similar to those adopted by the Commonwealth but not agreed to by Britain or several other Western nations.

In his week-long tour through the United States, he intends to undertake the complicated task of convincing foundations and businessmen to invest in a future South Africa when the time is ripe.

The first phase, which Mr. Mandela defined as lifting "people to people" sanctions had already been done by allowing air flights, visas, cultural contacts when obstacles to negotiations had been removed.

The second phase, after an interim government was established, would lift financial sanctions, trade credits and loans and a third phase, following the election of a new government based on a democratic constitution, would remove sanctions on oil and arms.

Mr. Mandela and his ANC on Dec. 20 will begin a convention with other anti-apartheid groups and the white-led South African government to discuss a new political system.

Mr. Mandela's speech before the 166-member body resembled in style and content that of a head of state and covered various world issues, from nuclear weapons to Cambodia to the Middle East.

During his news conference he also disclosed that he had received an invitation to visit Israel and was considering it.

Meanwhile, in South Africa 16 people were killed in fighting between rival black political movements, the worst outbreak of violence in the country's bitter factional war for nearly a month, police said Wednesday.

A spokesman said fighting broke out Tuesday evening between supporters of the African National Congress (ANC) and of Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party at Bruntville black township in Natal province.

Vance meets army, Serb leaders on Osijek plight

BELGRADE (R) — United Nations envoy Cyrus Vance held fresh talks Wednesday with Yugoslav army and Serb leaders, apparently to raise the plight of the bombarded Croatian city of Osijek which he visited Tuesday.

Yugoslav officials said the former U.S. secretary of state, who is on the fourth day of a peace mission, was meeting Federal Defence Minister Veljko Kadijevic and U.N. aides said he would also see Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

Later in the day, Mr. Vance planned to visit Croatia for talks with the breakaway republic's President Franjo Tudjman on whether to send a peacekeeping force to Yugoslavia.

Mr. Vance had already met Gen. Kadijevic and Mr. Milosevic Monday but he said Tuesday he was seeking more talks after being visibly moved by the suffering and destruction in Osijek, which has been pounded for weeks by the army and Serb irregulars.

Mr. Vance said to Osijek it was clear the city had been shelled since the latest 14th ceasefire in Yugoslavia's civil war 10 days ago and he spoke of "sharply varying differences" between his eyewitness evidence and what the army had told him.

"I have seen with my own eyes that there has been bombing and shelling here in the past few days," he said. "It will obviously affect negotiations with others who have told me different stories from what I have seen with my own eyes."

The army says it fires only when shot at by Croatian forces. Croatian radio reported that Osijek, quiet during Mr. Vance's visit, had come under fresh bombardment Wednesday morning, with shells falling on the city centre and suburbs.

Podravska Slatina, a Croatian city near the Hungarian border, had also come under artillery fire, it said. There was no confirmation of the reports from other sources.

Mr. Vance was later due to fly to the Austrian city of Graz, then travel by car to the Croatian capital Zagreb even though fighting is continuing in several parts of the republic, U.N. officials said.

He is trying to negotiate an agreement between Croatia, the rival Republic of Serbia and the Serbian-led federal army on the deployment of U.N. peacekeeping troops after five months of fighting which has killed thousands of people.

Mr. Vance will return to Belgrade Thursday before leaving for New York to report to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Despite the obstacles to a ceasefire, Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek said in Brussels that the six Yugoslav republics would meet in the Hague next Monday as the European Community starts its own summit at Maastricht.

He gave no details. But diplomatic sources in the Hague said Lord Carrington, the EC's chief envoy in peace talks on Yugoslavia, would chair the meeting to review events.

Battles which erupted after Croatia declared independence from Yugoslavia in June and its Serbian minority rebelled have eased since the latest ceasefire was declared.

Croatia and the neighbouring Republic of Slovenia are still waiting for recognition from other countries.

In Bonn, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl promised Slovenian President Milan Kucan that Germany would recognise his republic as an independent state by Christmas.

Queen Elizabeth awards U.N. chief a knighthood

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Queen Elizabeth awarded U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar an honorary knighthood in one of Britain's highest orders of chivalry, Britain's monarch announced. The Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George (GCMG) traditionally goes to distinguished British diplomats.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar, a Peruvian, will receive the award proposed to the queen by British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, who he retired from office at the end of 1991 after completing two five-year terms as the world's top civil servant. Because he is not British subject, the knighthood is an honorary one. This means he can put the letters GCMG after his name but he cannot call himself "Sir Javier," officials at Buckingham Palace in London said.

One of the most prominent Britons to have received this award is Lord Carrington, former British Foreign Secretary and the European Community's mediator on Yugoslavia.

Communications snag hits Singapore telecoms meeting

SINGAPORE (R) — An international telecommunications conference which opened in Singapore hit a snag — a communications glitch. Organisers of the pan-Asian telecommunications summit were unable to show a filmed speech transmitted from Switzerland because the quality was too poor. And a faxed transcript of the address was illegible in Paris, said Theodor Irmer, conference chairman. The speech was by Arthur Dunkel, director general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the world trade body.

Away team suffers double defeat in jail soccer match

LONDON (R) — Footballers who played a prisoners' team at a British jail lost more than the match when inmates broke into their dressing room and stole money and watches. "What a terrible day. We got stuffed 4-0 and then find that the dressing rooms have been raided," Frank Roberts, of amateur soccer club Wolverhampton Windows, said of the double defeat. The Daily Star newspaper said officials at the jail in Wolverhampton, central England, saw slim hopes of catching the culprits.

Winter woollies trap bungling midsummer thieves

MIDDLESBROUGH, England (R) — Two bungling bandits tried to rob a home loans bank in midsummer wearing winter woollies, a court was told. "They couldn't have been more conspicuous if they had been riding on the back of a camel," a witness who noticed the pair and called police told the court in Middlesbrough, northeast England. "It was sweltering hot... yet there they were, looking as if they were about to go skiing." Teenagers Lee Tranter and Mazfar Majid were convicted of conspiracy to rob a building society branch in the town last June. Tranter was ordered to serve 150 hours of community service and Majid 120.

India drops plan to identify AIDS carriers

NEW DELHI (R) — India has dropped a plan to make it mandatory for AIDS victims to disclose their identities, the Press Trust of India news agency said. The idea was abandoned after charges that it violated human rights and World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines. The news agency quoted senior Health Ministry officials as saying, "The agency said an existing regulation to screen all foreigners planning to stay in India for more than a year would remain. Health officials said they feared a law to disclose the identity of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) patients might make people from seeking medical help. About 6,000 people in India have so far tested positive for the virus which causes AIDS," the agency said.

S. Korea's ruling party split over Roh's successor

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's faction-ridden ruling party is expected to win next year's presidential election if its leaders are united and patch up a row threatening to tear the party apart, a senior party official said Wednesday.

Kim Yoon-Whan, secretary general of the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), said his party leaders were split over when and how the next presidential candidate should be decided.

President Roh Tae-Woo, who is due to step down in February 1993 after a five-year term in office, has ordered a suspension of the debate until the end of this year.

Mr. Kim said leaders of the DLP, formed last year after Pres-

ident Roh's Democratic Justice Party and two opposition groups merged, are expected to begin serious negotiations on the nomination issue in January.

"Regardless of who becomes our presidential candidate, he will be able to beat opposition candidates if he is endorsed by other factions," Mr. Kim said.

"I suppose factional leaders are sharing the view that they must prevent the party from breaking into pieces," Mr. Kim told foreign reporters in Seoul.

Mr. Kim, a former newspaper editor and close Roh confidant, said if the leaders failed to heal deep divisions within their alliance, the DLP would not be trusted by the public.

China attacks American human rights record

PEKING (R) — The People's Daily newspaper Wednesday told the United States to examine its record on crime and homelessness before lecturing China on human rights.

In a mocking attack, China's Communist Party mouthpiece concluded that millions of Americans were not guaranteed the most fundamental human right — the right to life.

A signed commentary headlined "why are the 'guardians of human rights' afraid to talk about the right to life?" is the latest twist in the strategy of China's headline leaders of engaging the West in dialogue on human rights.

The men who ordered guns and tanks to open fire on student demonstrators in Peking in June,

1989, appear to have decided that attack is the best form of defence. And they believe they have found the weak point in Washington's armour, what the commentary called the "fear and want" on the streets of America that contrasts with the wealth security enjoyed by a minority.

Out of every 100,000 Americans last year, eight were murdered (compared with two in China), 70 were raped (compared with four), more than 300 were injured (against seven), more than 200 robbed (against seven) and more than 5,000 were victims of theft (against 160).

The commentary said an average of 2.5 million Americans slept rough on the streets. The figure was 150,000 in China.

Cambodia factions to meet this month

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodia's four former warring factions will meet in Phnom Penh before the end of this month, Prime Minister Hun Sen said Wednesday.

Speaking at the airport after arriving from a special meeting of the country's reconciliation council in Thailand, Mr. Hun Sen said he was sure the Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction would be satisfied with new guarantees of protection.

"We have provided assurances there will be no repetition of the Nov. 27 incident," he told reporters.

The Supreme National Council (SNC) moved its meeting from Phnom Penh to Pattaya after

Khmer Rouge leaders Khieu Samphan and Son Sen were forced to flee back to Thailand from Phnom Penh last Wednesday by an angry crowd.

Mr. Hun Sen persuaded the Khmer Rouge to return to the peace process at the talks in Pattaya Tuesday, pledging that mob attacks would not recur.

He said the date of the Phnom Penh meeting "depends on the speed with which delegates of Mr. Khieu Samphan arrive."

The pair had returned to Phnom Penh for the first time since the Khmer Rouge were ousted in 1979, to take their seats on the 12-member SNC.

Power in the council is divided between the Vietnam-backed government of Hun Sen and

three guerrilla armies that fought for almost 13 years to overthrow it.

The Khmer Rouge officials will now be allowed to stay in the SNC headquarters, an imposing riverside building once the home of the French governor.

The government has promised to impose a 300 to 500 metre protective zone around the building and Mr. Hun Sen said government security officials would accompany the Khmer Rouge on travels from their residence to the airport.

Mr. Hun Sen said he believed a junior Khmer Rouge communications officer missing in Phnom Penh since the attack was safe but indicated he did not know where he was.

Skinner tipped to replace Sununu

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush will soon appoint a new chief of staff to help revive his flagging popularity but Democrats say his reelection problems are tied to economics, not personalities.

Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner, a troubleshooter for Mr. Bush, was widely reported to be the frontrunner to succeed John Sununu who resigned Tuesday after a stormy three-year tenure.

Mr. Bush had been under pressure from some cabinet members and fellow Republicans to dump Mr. Sununu, a hard-driving conservative who was unafraid to tread on toes or make enemies.

Critics blamed the former New Hampshire governor for gaffes that helped Mr. Bush plummet in

opinion polls, from a 90-per-cent approval rating after the Gulf war to about 50 per cent now.

Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, who served as White House chief of staff under former President Gerald Ford, would have been a strong candidate to replace Mr. Sununu, political sources said, but he apparently did not want the job.

Other possible successors were Fred Malek, a former top aide in the Nixon White House, Education Secretary Lamar Alexander, former New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean, former Minnesota Congressman William Frenzel, and public relations executive Craig Fuller. Mr. Bush's vice-presidential chief of staff.

Democrats — some of whom had avoided publicly criticising

Dr. Sununu because they saw him as more of an asset to their cause than Mr. Bush's — said Mr. Bush's problems transcended the issue of who was his chief of staff.

"The political problems being experienced by President Bush relate to the recession, and to the economic policies that hurt America's working families, not the leadership of governor Sununu in carrying out those policies," said House majority leader Richard Gephardt, a Missouri Democrat.

Virginia Governor Douglas Wilder, one of six declared candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination said: "The president is looking for people to blame for his own leadership shortcomings and his chief of staff was the obvious target."

EC to negotiate new members entry from 1993

BRUSSELS (R) — The 12 European Community (EC) states have agreed to start formal accession talks early in 1993 with other countries seeking to join the bloc, British officials said Tuesday.

The decision is a blow to the hopes of Austria and Sweden of an earlier start to formal negotiations on joining the bloc, although it does reaffirm the EC's commitment to accepting new members.

It also increases pressure on countries such as Norway, Finland and Switzerland which are currently considering a membership application to act fast if they wish to form part of the group who will start negotiations early in 1993.

At a meeting Tuesday, their last before next week's Maastricht summit, EC foreign ministers agreed that their leaders would include the enlargement pledge in their final statement, the officials said.

The summit will also call on the European Commission to carry out a study on the general question of EC enlargement, since almost a dozen countries have either applied to join or plan to do so before the year 2000.

The idea of a study by the commission, the EC executive, is regarded with suspicion by those who want the Community to expand quickly. They fear it could delay any new accessions by raising the enormous institutional problems which doubling the size of the bloc would bring.

The official said the summit pledge, first proposed by Britain, should not be seen as a new round in the philosophical battle between those who want the EC to become more united and those who want it to become bigger.

"This is not part of the deepening-versus-enlargement debate," one official said.

France and other "federalists" have been reluctant to throw the Community's doors open too fast, fearing this might dilute their efforts to build stronger economic and political links within the bloc itself.

British and Germany, at odds over many other basic questions of EC policy, have however agreed that the Community must respond to calls from its neighbours and from East European reformers seeking admission.

Prime Minister John Major had pushed the idea of a declaration on enlargement in talks with the leaders of the Netherlands, Germany and France over the past week.

British officials in London indicated that Mr. Major had agreed to back some of the ideas of French President Francois Mitterrand on political union in return for a measure of help on British objectives, including the statement on enlargement.

In Paris Tuesday, Mr. Mitterrand told Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky that France supported Austria's entry into the Community.

Malta, Cyprus and Turkey have already applied for EC membership.

The last bargaining session before the European Community's Maastricht summit has brought a long-sought deal on political, economic and monetary union within reach.

But despite their optimism after marathon talks by foreign and finance ministers Monday and Tuesday, diplomats do not discount last-minute surprises when EC leaders meet next week to hammer out a final deal after a year of treaty talks.

"It is complicated, but it can be done — so keep smiling," Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Den Broek, whose country will chair the summit as current EC president, said Tuesday night.

Other officials pointed out that although EC states had narrowed their differences on key points, enough issues remained open to raise the spectre of a failure if the summit next Monday and Tuesday becomes bogged down in haggling over details.

"If you start discussing each and every word, there just won't be enough time," one participant in the negotiations said.

On Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), the finance ministers struck a deal which makes it virtually certain that at least some countries will launch a single currency by the end of the century.

Apart from a handful of minor items, the summit would only need to agree on the precise wording of specific exemptions allowing British and Denmark to opt out of a currency union.

Britain would want to do so because it has fundamental misgivings about tying its fate so closely to the EC-Denmark's reason is that it wants to hold a referendum first.

On political union, the two-day talks in Brussels showed EC states drawing closer on how to forge a common foreign and security policy, including a military role for the first time in the Community's 34-year history.

But the foreign ministers were unable to agree on plans to give the EC a greater say in social affairs — a proposal Britain says could wreck a decade of efforts to curb its trade unions — or on demands by poorer states, led by Spain, for more money from their rich partners.

There was little discussion of so-called review clauses — another look at their links in a few years' time.

These probable revisions have become a key point since Germany, the staunchest backer of the largely impotent European Parliament, said last week it might go along with EMU as long as the other states agreed to pledge to give the assembly greater powers at some stages in the future.

Meanwhile, European Community interior and justice ministers pledged Tuesday to unify immigration policies to stem the flood of migrants seeking to enter the EC and to counter rising racism.

"Immigration is one of the major problems of the European democracies in this decade," Dutch Justice Minister Ernst Hirsch-Ballin told a news conference.

"We have to be prepared for further movements with people from East to West, and from other parts of the world, especially northern Africa."

He said tensions caused by immigration, already evident in several EC countries, showed how the issue could become a breeding ground for extremist groups from both left and right.

During two days of talks the ministers adopted a report detailing a series of measures to tackle the immigration problem. It will be presented to EC leaders at the Maastricht summit.

In order to stop "shopping around" by asylum-seekers, the ministers said requests for refugee status could be considered clearly unfounded if the migrant had shortly before applied for asylum in another EC country.

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